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Disclosure follows court injunction

Twin abortion has already taken place

By DOMINIC KENNEDY



Bennett: preferable to lose one than two

AN UNMARRIED mother has had one of a pair of healthy twins aborted, it was disclosed last night — hours after anti-abortion campaigners won an injunction to halt the operation.

It was unclear when the termination was carried out, but Lord Winston, the test tube baby pioneer who is close to several people involved, said he believed it was several weeks ago.

Lord Winston was speaking after a High Court judge issued an order preventing the obstetrician Professor Philip Bennett from conducting the abortion before 10am today. Campaigners from the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children wanted to force Professor Bennett to tell his patient about the £45,000 that had been offered to try to persuade her to keep both babies.

The woman, who was 16 weeks pregnant, was said to be in "strained" circumstances; she already had one child and could not face the burden of looking after two more. If the doctor did not carry out a selective termination, she would seek to abort both twins.

Professor Bennett, who works at Queen Charlotte's Hospital in West London, said: "Killing one healthy twin sounds unethical. But my colleagues and I concluded that it would be better to terminate one pregnancy and leave one alive than to lose two babies."

His remarks enraged anti-abortion campaigners who tried to get Professor Bennett arrested. They bombarded Hammersmith police station with letters, faxes and personal calls saying that the inability to cope with twins fell short of the legal grounds for an abortion.

When Superintendent Peter Lally decided that he had no grounds to intervene, the campaigners switched their fight to the High Court, where they

yesterday won their interim injunction against Professor Bennett, the North Thames Regional Health Authority, and Brentford and Hounslow social services.

The Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust later confirmed that the operation had already been carried out. A spokeswoman said: "Professor Bennett has spoken to the woman who is happy for us to confirm that the operation has taken place. She is adamant she does not want any more details put out."

Nevertheless, the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children said it would still take the issue to the High Court this morning. The society's barrister Paul Diamond said: "Even though it appears the abortion has been carried out, we intend to press for a change in the law to prevent and further such cases arising. The Abortion Act does not allow for the arbitrary termination of an unborn child, but only on certain grounds — such as the welfare of the mother or her existing children."

"The woman in this case claimed that she could not afford another child, but by the offer of financial assistance, we argue that the reason for the abortion had been removed and that the child was therefore terminated arbitrarily. We want the law

changed so that if the reasons for an abortion are changed then the operation should not be carried out."

Another anti-abortion charity, Life, wanted to know when the abortion took place. The health authority had said on Monday that the mother was still awaiting the operation and Life said that if that was the case, its lawyers would want to know whether Professor Bennett had passed on its faxed offer of £1,000 if the woman would keep the baby.

Attempts to save the twin by donations of some £45,000 from anti-abortion sympathisers were apparently frustrated by the hospital's refusal to inform her of the pledged gifts because of "confidentiality". But Phyllis Bowman, director of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, said: "When hospitals and doctors start talking about confidentiality, it's a sure sign that there is a cover-up."

And Ann Winterton, chairman of the all-party parliamentary pro-life group, demanded a Department of Health inquiry. "Under the patient's charter, she is entitled to be given full information and I will move heaven and earth to ensure that she receives it."

But Lord Winston condemned the campaigners' tactics. "I think it is immoral to put someone like this under pressure," he said. "They should ask themselves, if they really want to protect life, why don't they give that money to a good cause either in Ethiopia or perhaps the children in Bosnia."

"No woman I have ever met has ever gone through a termination without the most serious consideration. It is something that is extremely difficult for women to do and is only done after a great deal of soul-searching."

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Dr Monica Grady of the Natural History Museum, who has studied the meteorite, described the discovery as absolutely fascinating

Meteorite offers signs of life on Mars

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

The first evidence of extra-terrestrial life may have been detected by scientists from the American space agency Nasa.

A meteorite that originated on Mars has revealed chemical evidence suggesting that simple forms of life must have existed on the planet.

Mars is known to have the basic necessities of life: carbon, nitrogen and water. And while the Viking spacecraft which landed there in the 1970s found no evidence of life of any sort, scientists have never given up and a new series of probes is planned.

But the new evidence required no spacecraft to collect it. It found its way from Mars, in the form of material "splashed off" its surface by the impact of some object from space. After wandering around the solar system, this material arrived on Earth about 12,000 years ago in the form of a meteorite, named Allen Hills 84001 after the area in Antarctica where it was found.

Detailed analysis by a team

from Nasa, the Open University and the Natural History Museum concluded that it had originated from Mars, because it includes pockets of glass that contain gases of the same composition as the Martian atmosphere.

And yesterday the weekly Space News reported that further analysis had revealed chemical evidence suggestive of life. Nasa officials confirmed that the report was "essentially correct", and the journal Science said that a paper on the discovery had been received and was being prepared for publication.

What exactly the evidence is remained unclear last night. Nasa was preparing a statement and officials declined to elaborate.

One source suggested that the chemical found was magnetite, an oxide of iron that can be associated with bacterial action. If so, the evidence would remain inconclusive, because other processes can also produce magnetite. More convincing would be fossils



Viking Orbiter's image of Mars

showing cell structures or other features of bacteria.

Dr Monica Grady of the Natural History Museum, who has studied Allen Hills 84001, said: "It is entirely possible that very primitive micro-organisms may have evolved on Mars. I'm not talking about ammonites or corals or anything like that, but something incredibly primitive such as micro-fossils from highly primitive organisms. It's absolutely fascinating to find these."

Dr Grady's earlier work had shown that the climate of Mars when the rock in the

meteorite was forming was warm and wet, a far cry from today's bitterly cold planet, which has frozen carbon dioxide covering its poles. Such conditions would certainly have made evolution of life possible, even if climatic change destroyed it.

Today Mars contains very little evidence of water, but the suspicion is that some remains in the form of permafrost. The surface of the planet has features suggesting that it once had running water.

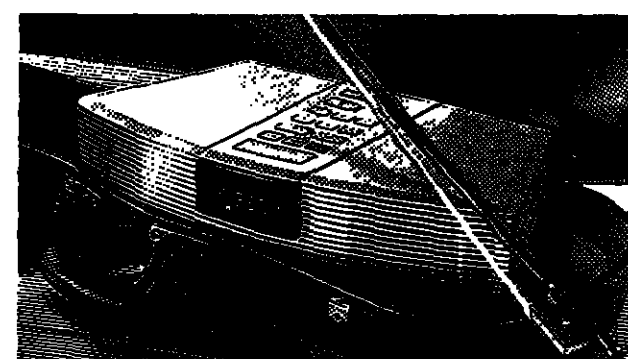
Some are like old river beds, while others appear to have been caused by flash floods. "We are not talking about rivers or lakes," Dr Grady says. "The chances are that the

water was present in only small amounts."

Given the essentials of life, scientists believe that it would have evolved by a process in which simple chemicals combined to form more complex ones until a self-replicating molecule emerged. This would be a primitive form of the genetic material DNA.

Given the multitudes of stars in the cosmos, the chances are that life may have evolved in many places. In the solar system, Mars is the only serious possibility. But if the Nasa evidence is persuasive, the odds that we are not alone have shortened dramatically.

Fact and fiction, page 2



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DNA test clears tramp of raping murdered girl

By BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS AND JOANNA BALE

THE parents of the murdered schoolgirl Caroline Dickinson yesterday urged the French police to redouble their efforts after DNA tests cleared the tramp who confessed to raping her.

Patrice Padé, a known sex offender, was charged on July 22 after allegedly admitting the rape and murder at a Brittany youth hostel. But the negative DNA tests have cast doubt on all aspects of his confession — even though the possibility remains that he acted with an accomplice.

Caroline, 13, was among 40 Launceston College pupils on a school trip when she was killed at the youth hostel in the village of Pleine-Fougères, 30 miles east of St Malo.

Yesterday her parents, John and Susan Dickinson, issued a statement saying: "When on July 18 the news of our daughter's death reached us our lives were changed forever. The news, some days later, that someone had been apprehended for this terrible crime

was a small consolation. Now it seems that we have been denied even this."

"We hope that the authorities will redouble their efforts to catch the culprit. Then the man who robbed Caroline of her future and us of a lovely daughter will not be free to commit such a crime again."

The investigating judge, Gérard Zaugg, has ordered further laboratory tests to



Caroline: parents denied "small consolation"

confirm the findings of the first result. And police have drawn up a new photofit picture of a suspect which they have shown to villagers in and around Pleine-Fougères.

They are also investigating M Padé's network of homeless acquaintances. His description of the hostel was apparently detailed enough to convince detectives that he was there. Now they are said to be working on the theory that he had an accomplice who raped Caroline before she was suffocated while four of her friends slept beside her.

Even so, there is a big question mark over whether two men could have carried out such an attack without waking the other girls.

M Padé's lawyer, René Blanchard, has now filed an appeal for his client's release, saying: "Since the start of this affair I have been completely convinced of his innocence."

Police yesterday insisted that the investigation had never been relaxed.

Ulster braced for clashes as talks fail

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE prospect of violent sectarian clashes this weekend faced Northern Ireland after nationalists and Unionists failed to reach agreement yesterday over a contentious loyalist parade in Londonderry on Saturday.

Negotiations broke down when the loyalist Apprentice Boys rejected a nationalist demand to widen the negotiation and give Roman Catholics a veto over marches throughout the province.

Hopes of finding a solution appeared slim last night when the Apprentice Boys and nationalists from the Bogside area of Londonderry said they saw little point in holding further talks.

John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party and MP for Foyle, who chaired four meetings between the two sides, said he was disappointed that they had failed to reach agreement. He promised to hold separate talks with the nationalists and loyalists in the hope of finding an agreement before thou-

sands of Apprentice Boys descended on Londonderry on Saturday for their annual parade, which commemorates the 1689 siege of the town.

Nationalists in Londonderry object to the loyalist parade because it is due to pass along a section of the city walls which overlooks the Catholic Bogside area. The parade last year led to minor clashes between the RUC and Sinn Féin demonstrators, the parade in 1969 led to serious sectarian clashes at the start of the modern-day troubles.

During yesterday's negotiations the Apprentice Boys agreed to limit their numbers and to silence their bands along the contentious section of the walls. They also agreed to erect screens to block off the view of the Bogside.

Donncha MacNiallais, spokesman for the Bogside Residents' Group, responded favourably to the proposals from the loyalists. But the negotiations broke down because he insisted that the

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Rural post offices defy strike call and demand ballot

By Christine Buckley and Andrew Pierce

PRESSURE grew on postal union leaders yesterday to mount a national ballot on the peace plan drawn up at Acas after pockets of workers rejected strike action and demanded a resolution to the dispute.

The Post Office claimed that one in five delivery offices worked normally and that more than 10 per cent of its staff had arrived for work. It is to send a copy of the peace deal to all its staff so they can decide for themselves about the terms on offer.

The entire sorting office in Wimborne, Dorset, defied the nationwide strike call by the Communication Workers' Union and called for a ballot on the pay and conditions deal which was endorsed by Alan Johnson, joint general secretary, but rejected by the union's postal executive. Elsewhere other delivery workers reported for duty and the Post Office said it was able to deliver mail to a substantial number of regions.

The fragmentation of strike action and the growing support for the union's negotiators who brokered the peace deal will force further pressure on the splits within the union's executive.

Mr Johnson and his team that struck the deal with the Post Office are opposed by a hardline contingent within the postal executive, largely on the issue of teamworking. But under union rules unless the executive backs a deal it cannot go to national ballot.

Alan Pateman, the CWU's office representative at

Wimborne, said: "We just want to see a national ballot to speed things up in this debate. The offer was possibly a workable deal. Certainly it was an awful lot better than what existed previously."

"We feel that Alan Johnson is being undermined by having to go through the national executive. If the deal was put to the members then we would see what the feeling really was. We are the people that have to implement changes."

The Post Office claimed further strong pockets of resistance: it said 78 per cent of delivery workers in south Cornwall went to work while 67 per cent in the north of the county were working. In the Bath area it said 55 per cent were at work.

A spokesman for the CWU said strike figures were difficult to calculate accurately although he conceded that some members were breaking the strike. Billy Hayes, national organiser for the union, denied that the deadlock between the two sides was raising the political stakes for privatising the service.

He said: "The public has already said that it doesn't want the Post Office privatised. John Redwood has got cloth ears. If Mrs Thatcher couldn't privatise it then certainly John Major can't."

His view was echoed by some Tory MPs, who warned the Government not to exploit the suspension of the Post Office monopoly to revive plans to sell off the Royal Mail. Speculation that the

privatisation had returned to the political agenda was heightened when Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, pointedly refused to rule it out in a series of radio interviews.

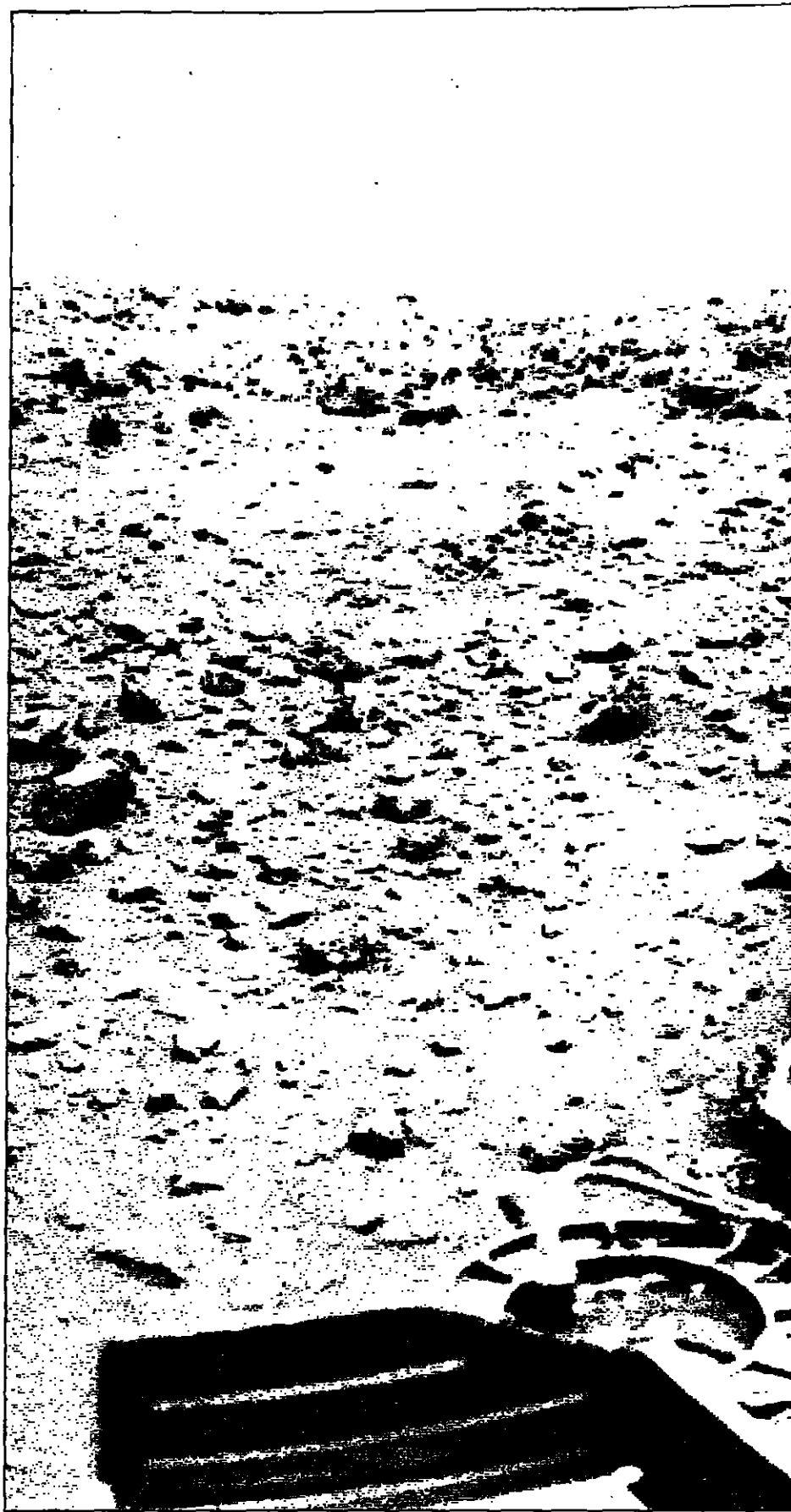
At the same time, a group of influential Conservative MPs expressed their fears that a manifesto commitment to privatisation of all or part of the service could cost votes at the general election. One former Cabinet minister said yesterday that privatisation might be "deeply unpopular".

There is widespread concern that temporary suspension is the forerunner of a permanent free-for-all that would leave the rural sub-post offices fighting for their survival.

MPs fear private contractors would cherry-pick the profit-making parcel trade in towns and cities leaving the Post Office struggling to maintain its universal services across the country without subsidies or cuts.

Colin Baker, General Secretary of the National Federation of Sub Postmasters, said that his first point of call was to Stuart Sweetman, managing director of Post Office Counters Ltd, to warn him that "rural sub offices are balancing on a knife edge".

"Rural sub-offices have not got a great deal of work as it is and anything that threatens the throughput of commercial traffic is going to threaten their survival. A lot of them are on very thin margins."



The surface of Mars as pictured in 1976 during the Viking landings

Mars fact and fiction are still worlds apart

By Nicholas Booth

H.G. WELLS wrote about it. Orson Welles broadcast about it. And David Bowie sang about it. But until now there has been no evidence of life on Mars.

If confirmed, it has cosmic proportions. In the words of one biologist, it takes life from being a miracle on Earth to a statistic with endless possibilities in the universe. What that means is that the complex chemistry upon which life is based is rather more widespread than had been thought.

As the most Earthlike planet in this solar system, Mars has held a particular — indeed, peculiar — fascination throughout the centuries. The grounds of the earliest telescopes, the red colour of Mars suggested deserts and green markings hinted at vegetation. Today we know the green is caused by darker rock over which winds have whipped the red dust of the surface. But the waxing and waning of icy polar caps hinted that Mars had water — in fact, space probes have shown that they are mainly made of carbon dioxide, the main ingredient for special effects at rock concerts.

As telescopes improved, so did the fanciful image of our neighbour in space. In the 19th century, astronomers reported seeing networks of canals which soon became equated with the desperate efforts of a dying civilisation trying to come to terms with the arid conditions on the red planet. Percival Lowell, a Boston Brahmin, devoted his life to

studying the planet and drew literally hundreds of canals criss-crossing the surface. The problem was that few others saw them and they were an optical illusion. Contemporary recall Lowell's eyesight was so acute that he could see telegraph wires many miles distant in the Arizona desert. The Lowell Observatory still stands on what was named Mars Hill in Flagstaff.

Lowell's promotion of the idea of Martians became very popular. In 1902, when a French widow offered 100,000 francs to the first person to make contact with alien life, Mars was excluded on the grounds it would be too easy. Others later suggested that giant mirrors be constructed in the desert to signal messages to our Martian brethren.

The reality, alas, was rather more prosaic. The first space probes in the 1960s revealed that Mars had a poisonous atmosphere of carbon dioxide and a pressure one-hundredth that on Earth. As more probes revealed a geologist's paradise of canyons, volcanoes and craters, the odds shortened towards Martian microbes. Yet the evidence for what appeared as dried up river beds hinted that if there was no life today, there may have been in the past. Mars may have been warmer and more clement in its earliest epochs, scientists believe.

The prospect of living microbes was scuttled 20 years ago when Nasa landed two

probes on the surface. Vikings 1 and 2 returned eerie pictures of a rock-strewn surface beneath a pink sky. They then scooped up soil samples and analysed them in exhaustive detail. At best ambiguous, the results were that the lowliest microbes could not survive the harsh ultraviolet light from the Sun, for Mars has no protective layer of ozone.

Conspiracy theories routinely appear in supermarket tabloids in the United States. It was rumoured that Nasa found evidence for methane on Mars — the product of biology — but the CIA suppressed it. An Italian writer claimed that the Viking probes took pictures of an ancient city. To some, a giant hill seen in a region called Cydonia appears like a face and, to others, like a pyramid. And on a rock photographed by Viking 1 at sunset, there appeared to be evidence of Martian graffiti — a letter B. One was suggested that it stood for Barsom — the name for Mars in Edgar Rice Burroughs' novels from the 1920s.

The most recent probes to Mars all suffered from heart-breaking failures. But the next generation of probes will be launched this autumn with two Russian and two American missions heading towards the red planet.

They will land, dispatch rovers across the surface, and return further clues to the strange chemistry of a planet whose lure has never diminished in the popular and scientific imagination.

Railtrack directors' pay bill rises by 26%

Railtrack prompted a new "fat cat" row over rail privatisation yesterday when it disclosed that its directors' pay bill rose by 26 per cent in the year leading up to the flotation of the company.

Figures in Railtrack's glossy report and accounts for the year to the end of March, when it was still publicly owned, showed that the salaries, bonuses and fees paid to its board members rose from £930,000 to £1.18 million. Salaries to the chairman and executive members of the board increased by 30 per cent to £732,000. The highest-paid full-time director was Norman Broadhurst, the finance director, whose total salary package rose by nearly 18 per cent to £232,000. In the same period average staff costs fell by 7 per cent.

Blood switch claim

A hospital orderly told a jury at Maidstone Crown Court, Kent, that he was shocked when his girlfriend told him that she had switched his blood sample to prevent him paying child maintenance to another woman. Timothy Anderson, 24, of Lenham, near Maidstone, denies perverting the course of justice. His girlfriend, Elizabeth Mills, 33, a hospital sister, has admitted the same charge. The hearing continues.

Vets deny 'mutilation'

Farmers and vets needlessly and sometimes illegally mutilate millions of livestock every year, docking piglets, castrating lambs and calves and de-beaking hens as a matter of routine and often without anaesthetic. Compassion in World Farming said yesterday. The British Veterinary Association denied condoning illegality and said many of the practices were for the animals' long-term welfare.

Strike halts Tubes again

The London Tube network was expected to be halted today by another 24-hour strike by drivers. Road congestion is likely to be increased by the action group Reclaim the Streets, which plans to block main routes with bicycles in support of the drivers. Leaders of the RMT union and Aslef said that the Government had interfered in the dispute over hours and that MPs saw continuation of the strike as a vote-winner.

Hepatitis A cases

Three haemophiliacs aged between eight and 18, who used the same blood clotting agent, have contracted hepatitis A, it was disclosed yesterday. The children were diagnosed during routine check-ups at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital. Although no firm link has been established between the clotting agent, Alpha VIII, and the infections, the hospital has withdrawn the product during an investigation.

Firebomb attack on pub

A couple who run a public house had a firebomb thrown through their window yesterday, which they claim was because they stopped underage drinking. Tina Stacey, 44, and her husband Bob, of the Railway Inn in Wincanton, Somerset, had refused to serve a group of teenagers who then allegedly threatened them. Tyres on the Staceys' car were later slashed and bricks thrown through the window.

Ferry close to disaster

A sailor nearly caused a disaster aboard a Belgian car ferry in March by opening the outer doors as the vessel was at full speed in mid-Channel. The Belgian Maritime Transport Authority said. It reported that the *Prince Albert* roll-on, roll-off ferry, which had about 200 people on board, was on its way from Ramsgate to Ostend on March 10 when the incident happened.

Raffle prize matures

A woman who won a painting in the 1950s with a one-shilling raffle ticket has had it valued at £15,000. Alina Billewicz, 77, who fought with the Polish Resistance before coming to Britain, is selling *Still Life with Spring Flowers*, painted by the Scottish artist Anne Redpath (1895-1965), which she won at an event staged by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament in Aberdeen. It will be auctioned this month.

Ulster talks collapse

Continued from page 1

Apprentice Boys must win the consent of nationalists before holding parades anywhere else in Northern Ireland. He said: "The Apprentice Boys would have to state that where there was no consent for a parade on a particular road, they would abide by the wishes of the community."

His attempt to widen the negotiations beyond the Londonderry march infuriated the loyalists and fuelled their suspicions that Sinn Féin was dictating the agenda. The residents' group says it is separate from the party, although a press release from the group was distributed by the Sinn Féin press office yesterday.

Alasdair Simms, governor of the Apprentice Boys, accused the nationalists of being dictatorial. He said: "It is a very sad for the whole of this city. We thought we had come to a situation where we could have gone forward together with everybody. Where are our civil rights when the

Bogside residents' group turn round and say you are not getting anywhere?" Mr Simms added that loyalists would not be responsible for any violence on Saturday.

Attention will now focus on Mr Hume's shuttle mission between the two sides before the weekend. If he fails to find agreement, the RUC will be faced once again with a virtually impossible task in trying to maintain order. Sir Hugh Annesley, the Chief Constable, who faced widespread criticism last month after he ended the five-day stand-off at Drumcree by allowing Orangemen to march through a Catholic area, will be weighing his options.

The Church of Ireland Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Dr James McHaffey, said last night that he was bitterly disappointed by the collapse of the negotiations. He told BBC Radio Ulster: "People I met in town this afternoon are in a depressed state because they realise what is at stake."

City warns of 9% rates in return to boom and bust

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

BRITAIN could be heading for another period of boom and bust with interest rates climbing as high as 9 per cent towards the end of next year, a leading City investment banking group says today.

In flat contradiction of claims by John Major and Kenneth Clarke that the present recovery is soundly based and certain to last, ministers and Labour leaders are given notice that whichever party wins the general election it could be only months away from an economic crisis.

The warning, from the Charterhouse group, suggests Mr Clarke has cut interest rates purely for political reasons, predicts that inflation

will return next year as public enemy number one, and claims that the trade gap will widen substantially. The report says that while inflation is likely to be around 2.5 per cent in the middle of next year, the expected election date, by the end of 1997 it could be up to 4 per cent.

Charterhouse points to a 3.25 per cent growth in consumption this year and more than 4 per cent next. "This pace cannot be sustained without a deterioration in the trade accounts and a build up of inflationary pressure. It is still possible that base rates will be edged higher before the end of this year but this is likely to be in conjunction with a modest easing in fiscal policy. Follow-

ing an election in 1997, the incoming government will be forced to take more aggressive action."

It says there have been "dramatic" improvements in personal finances, with tax cuts and cash windfalls boosting household cash flows. And it says that imports are set to increase by 7 per cent next year — "one of the costs of a return to consumer led growth" — with the likely result an increase in the deficit to £4 billion this year and £10 billion in 1997.

The report suggests that Mr Clarke has succumbed to the temptation of interest rate cuts over recent months because of the Government's poor political standing. "There can be little doubt that the Chancellor is using the excuse of favourable trends in inflation to engineer a stronger consumer environment and it is hard not to conclude that political motive has dominated economics argument in the debate over monetary policy."

It says that the Bank of England has made it clear that it is not convinced by the case for lower rates, but Eddie George, the Governor, "has been on the back foot since earlier advice to raise rates proved ill-founded."

Charterhouse suggests that Mr Clarke might be well-advised to launch a "pre-emptive strike" on interest rates, sanctioning a modest rise before the end of this year, to reassure the financial markets.

It forecasts that inflation will return as "public enemy number one" while, with the election over, the new government will have to take decisive action in the second half of 1997 to reduce growth. "The result is expected to be reflected in base rates rising to between 8 per cent and 9 per cent."

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Allies turn on Redwood

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

JOHN REDWOOD is facing a growing backlash from Tory MPs over his string of "unrealistic" demands on the Government. Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor who stood aside for Mr Redwood in last year's leadership contest, has become increasingly estranged from his former ally.

Mr Lamont is infuriated by Mr Redwood's repeated assertions that £6 billion of spending cuts can be afforded with ease to finance reduction in taxes. One senior right wing Tory MP said: "It is unrealistic and it is toytown economics. Unrealistic calculations do

nothing for the Redwood cause. A period of pre-Budget purdah is advisable."

Tory MPs in the Michael Portillo camp, the other principal leadership contender, have seized the opportunity to try to discredit Mr Redwood. "It is loyalty which is required from all Tory MPs in the run-up to the election," said one Portillo supporter last night.

Veteran Tory MPs such as Sir Julian Critchley also entered the fray yesterday and urged Mr Redwood "to shut up for the sake of the party". Quentin Davies, on the left of the Tory Party, also appealed for Mr Redwood to "get behind the party" and fight Labour.

But Mr Redwood denied

that he was being disloyal and urged the party to rally behind the Prime Minister to win the General Election.

In a statement yesterday, Mr Redwood said: "I wish to see a Conservative government elected at the next election. I urge my colleagues to do all in their power to secure victory. The Government believes that unity is essential for this purpose. Just as I asked colleagues to support the government in the crucial debate on BSE, so I ask all good Conservatives now to unite in stressing the themes: 'Yes it hurt. Yes it worked.' 'New Labour, new danger.'"

Friends of Mr Redwood pointed out he has made speeches attacking Labour.

Britons' murders unsolved

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

FRENCH police, currently involved in the hunt for the killer of Caroline Dickinson, have a poor record in solving the murders of Britons. More than 20 have died since 1970 but three quarters of the cases remain open.

Among them is that of John Cartland, a former member of the SOE during the Second World War, who was killed in the South of France in 1973 while on holiday with his son Jeremy. The case roused echoes of the notorious murders of Sir John Drummond, another former member of SOE, killed with his wife and daughter in 1952 while on

holiday in the French Alps. In 1980 two teachers on a cycling holiday, Lorraine Glasby, 28, and Paul Bellion, 29, from Norfolk, were tied up back to back, gagged and shot dead. Their bodies were found in a maize field in Brittany.

Joanna Parrish, 21, was raped, beaten and strangled as she picked wild flowers near Auxerre in Burgundy in 1990. Her parents have campaigned for six years to get French police to reopen the investigation.

Leslie Chorlton, a 47-year-old civilian who had lived in France for two years, and his Dutch-born wife were found bound and strangled in woods at Cressensac in central France, in 1991. Angela Hay,

46, was murdered with her French husband Alain in May this year. The couple were found in their car in a canal in Alsace after drawing £70,000 from their bank account. Police said the motive for the killings could have been theft.

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Man is death of piglets

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Man is kicked to death defending piglets from gang

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A MAN who went to the defence of a pair of pot-bellied piglets he kept in a pen in his back garden was kicked to death by a gang threatening to burn them alive.

Murder squad detectives launched a hunt for up to five men who attacked Ronald Smith, 49, after he confronted them outside his home near Birmingham.

Mr Smith's widow, Margaret, 42, who comforted her dying husband in her arms, said that he had got out of bed when he heard the men shouting and asked them from the window to be quiet. When they taunted him with threats against the nine-week-old pigs, Bill and Ben, he followed his son Joe, 20, out of the house.

Mr Smith, a 49-year-old unemployed carpenter, was left in a pool of blood on the pavement at Frankley, West Midlands, with severe facial injuries and a cut to the back of the head. He was pronounced dead on arrival at Selly Oak Hospital. His son escaped injury.

Mr and Mrs Smith had reared another pot-bellied pig who died 18 months ago after being fed rat poison.

Mrs Smith said yesterday: "There was a gang of about five youths outside shouting abuse and saying they were going to torch our pigs and burn the house down. We didn't know why they wanted to because we have never had any problems with these lads before."

"Joey went out to remonstrate with the youths because of the threat and to tell them to stop shouting. He followed them round the estate and then they met up with my



Smith kept the piglets in a pen in his garden

husband, who had also gone out.

"They threw something at his head. As he went down his head hit the kerb, then they carried on booting him as he lay there. I came over and Ron was lying on the road and he was still alive. Ron died in my arms. He was a lovely man who would help anybody."

Detectives, who appealed for witnesses to the attack, carried out a search of the pavement and grass bank on the council estate where Mr Smith was found and made house-to-house calls. A machete was found at the scene.

Last night four men in their early twenties were helping police with their inquiries. Initially three were being questioned, and the fourth joined them after being treated at the City Hospital, Birmingham, for facial injuries.

Several neighbours of the family telephoned the police when they heard the affray outside the family's semi-detached home late on Monday night.

A neighbour of the Smiths, Emma Jones, 24, said: "He was a nice bloke who was going to let my two children feed the pigs. He has had pigs before but he has only had these two for four weeks and he keeps them in a pen in the garden."

Lynda Wright, another neighbour, said: "These yobs were running through the houses with baseball bats and blades looking for trouble. We get this sort of thing all the time around here, when they're not stealing your car or radio. I ran out to help Ron. He was a great bloke and would help anyone out yet never take anything for it."

Detective Chief Inspector Ellie Baker said: "This was a tragic incident which is being treated as a murder inquiry. There were a lot of people gathered at the scene and I ask them to call us with information."

"I understand voices were heard shouting abuse outside the Smiths' house about their pigs. The pigs were kept as pets and were nine weeks old."

Mr Smith followed his son out of the house and we believe he was involved in a fight in the alleyway. The fight then moved across the road onto the grass verge where the body was found. We know Mr Smith was in bed when he heard the gang shouting outside his house. His son went out first and he followed. The son came back but Mr Smith did not."

Mr Smith suffered facial injuries and a cut to the back of his head, but a post mortem failed to establish the exact cause of death and police said further tests would be carried out.



The remains of the Roman fort as seen from the air, where the dry weather has helped to define its outline

Early Roman fort unearthed by the long hot summer

By PETER FOSTER

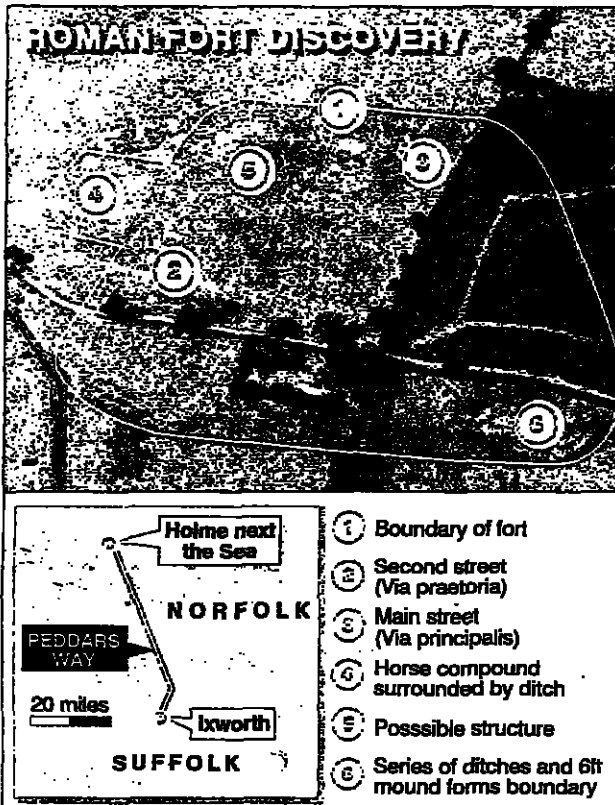
THE remains of an early Roman fort built to impose order on Boudicca and the marauding Iceni has been discovered in Norfolk.

The 16-acre site came to light in an aerial survey because of the dry summer. The remains, which straddle the 50-mile Roman road Peddars Way, were spotted as dark markings in a crop of potatoes.

David Gurney, principal landscape archaeologist at the Norfolk Museums Service, said he believed the fortification dated to the period of Boudicca's uprising against occupying Roman forces in AD 60-61. "This discovery is of national importance and will tell us much about early military activity in Norfolk and East Anglia," he said. "We knew a fort was established here after the Roman invasion in AD 43, but this is a second, larger site which we think was built by the Roman administration to exercise tighter control on the Iceni tribe."

"The spectacularly dry summer has meant that the ditches surrounding the fort have acted as a reservoir for plants. In the drought these plants grow higher than the rest, revealing the outline of the Roman remains."

"The fort is based on a



standard design common throughout the Roman Empire. The main defences included three deep ditches and a timber palisade. The outer ditch, 20-30ft wide, was designed to keep attackers at a safe distance and suggest the

use of artillery, probably in the form of catapults.

The fort is thought to have been built as a temporary structure populated by up to 2,000 soldiers housed in wooden barracks. As well as a military headquarters the

compound would have contained granaries, workshops and craftsmen needed to support the Roman forces. The main gates are also thought to have been made out of timber, possibly flanked by two towers.

Mr Gurney, who specialises in the Roman period, said: "The fort was occupied for no longer than a decade. If it had lasted any longer then stone would probably have been used. The whole area would have been divided up by a grid street system with the headquarters building in the middle. Craftsmen would be employed to maintain the military equipment. Spear shafts were also in constant demand because Roman spears were designed to break on landing to prevent the enemy throwing them back."

Outside the main perimeter the survey reveals a smaller area surrounded by a ditch, possibly used as a corral for cavalry horses. The location of the find is being kept secret to stop an invasion of metal detector enthusiasts damaging the site.

The survey, funded by the Royal Commission for Historic Monuments of England, also revealed an Iron Age Long Barrow and a late Roman villa.

Roman Britain, page 7

Howard loses over China

By A STAFF REPORTER

A BUSINESSMAN who fears the death penalty if forced to stand trial in Hong Kong on £4.5 million corruption charges won a reprieve against extradition yesterday as the Home Secretary suffered another blow at the hands of the judiciary.

Two judges ruled in the High Court that Michael Howard misdirected himself when he ordered the return of Ewan Launder, aged 60, to the Crown colony which will be ceded to China next year.

Lord Justice Henry said the decision to return Mr Launder

was a "Cabinet decision" taken on the basis that the People's Republic of China would fulfill its treaty obligations with Britain and the fugitive would receive a fair trial and humane treatment.

The judge said it was clear Mr Howard "felt himself bound by the collective Cabinet decision" when in fact he should have exercised his personal judgment "on the real risks of breach of the treaty safeguards". Mr Launder argued that safeguards to a fair trial would not survive.

The court allowed Mr Launder's application for judicial review, quashed the extradition warrant and ordered the Home Secretary to reconsider the case. Mr Howard was given leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

Mr Launder, of Sutton Courtenay, Oxfordshire, faces trial on 14 charges of accepting bribes from two Hong Kong businessmen between 1980 and 1982. It is alleged the money was a "sweetener" over loans by Wardley, the investment arm of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, of which he was chief executive.

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London falls to Independence Day

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

HOLLYWOOD descended on London last night to stage the largest film launch seen in Britain. *Independence Day*, an £80 million blockbuster about aliens in spaceships the size of cities, has broken box-office records in America, and is expected to do the same here.

The film, whose stars include special effects designers who blow up the White House and enlarge 12ft models of space-

ships into versions 15 miles wide, is launched on Friday in 560 cinemas, a record.

The European premiere at the Odeon Leicester Square comes only a month after its American opening. The idea of such closely-timed openings would have been unthinkable just two years ago, but distributors are now keen to capitalise on the marketing push in America.

Among several American blockbusters coming to Britain during the coming months are Arnold Schwarzenegger's

Eraser, *101 Dalmatians*, *Escape From LA* by John Carpenter; Jack with Robin Williams; and *Dragonheart* with Dennis Quaid, Julie Christie and the voice of Sean Connery.

Independence Day has already taken £150 million in America, where critics raved. One wrote: "*Independence Day* is how Cecil B. De Mille would have done *War of the Worlds* if he'd had the opportunity — and the money."

Arts, page 30



Bryan: owes £30,000 to Duchess's sister

Bryan is declared bankrupt

By EMMA WILKINS

JOHN BRYAN, the Duchess of York's former financial adviser, was made bankrupt yesterday after failing to pay debts of £60,000 to creditors including the Duchess's sister.

Under the terms of the bankruptcy order issued at the High Court in London, Mr Bryan has 21 days to complete forms giving details of his

bank accounts and other financial affairs. He could be arrested if he fails to comply with the Official Receiver.

His worldwide assets can be seized to pay creditors including the Duchess's sister, Jane Lueddecke, American Express Europe and Penningtons, a firm of solicitors.

Mr Bryan lives in Los Angeles. Randolph Abood, his lawyer, said: "He is disap-

pointed that there was no movement to settle this case."

Mrs Lueddecke and her husband, Reiner, are seeking payment of £30,000 costs which they incurred during a two-year legal battle with Mr Bryan over exclusive coverage of their wedding in *Hello!* magazine. Kathryn Garbett, their solicitor, said they were delighted with the ruling. The Duchess made no comment.

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Doctor claims he was set up as presenter hosted a show on her daughter's ME condition

BBC defends Rantzen over TV 'shout-in' claim

By CAROL MIDDLEY AND LIN JENKINS

THE BBC defended Esther Rantzen from accusations of bias yesterday over the way she conducted a programme on the treatment of the condition known as ME, which afflicts her 18-year-old daughter, Emily.

Television reviewers criticised the programme as a "shout-in", and Dr Thomas Stuttford said he had been set up to be attacked by the invited audience. A BBC spokesman said that Miss Rantzen "effectively combines passion with top-class journalism".

Dr Stuttford, the Times columnist and a former Tory MP, was booted and hissed on BBC's *The Rantzen Report* when he suggested that ME could be a psychiatric illness rather than a virus. He said that, rather than being invited to represent the 75 per cent of GPs who did not believe that ME was an illness in its own right, he was used as a scapegoat for angry and frustrated members of the audience.

"I don't want to criticise Esther Rantzen, whom I rather like," he said. "But when I was asked to appear, I explained it was a highly contentious issue and it was important to have a rational, detached discussion, not a Kilroy-Silk type programme



Stuttford said rational discussion was important

where mob rule can prevail. They were hostile, I think, partly because there are people who have not yet learnt to regard psychiatric disease as a proper illness. They are still seeing it as a moral weakness. They feel they have lost the son or daughter they knew and want to take their anger out on someone. And who better than a doctor?"

"I was set up, no doubt about that. There was I, in my red socks and dark blue suit, typifying the English Trad. I was like Daniel walking into the lion's den. I don't think I have ever met such aggression and stubborn refusal to listen to, let alone understand, any opinion that was contrary to their own."

"My main grumble, in fact,

was that during the show they flashed on the screen an invitation to find out more about ME. That contact turned out to be the ME Association, and I'm not sure that an institution like the BBC, which is supposed to be impartial, should be lending its services in this way."

Yesterday the BBC said it had received about 50 calls from members of the public about the programme. "Some were critical, some praised the programme and some just wanted more information. ME is a controversial subject about which little is known and it isn't surprising that opinions are sharply divided."

"Dr Stuttford was one of several doctors in the audience expressing different views and

had plenty of time to make his point. Esther Rantzen is one of the BBC's most experienced interviewers who, with her campaigns on child abuse, organ transplants and bullying to name but a few, have demonstrated that she effectively combines passion with top-class journalism."

The broadcaster, who has nursed her daughter for the past two years, said that many doctors dismissed ME — myalgic encephalomyelitis — as a malingering's charter. Some television critics said Miss Rantzen abandoned objectivity during the programme and began talking about ME as if it were an established fact.

Victor Lewis-Smith, reviewing the programme in the *London Evening Standard*, condemned it for showing no desire to seek the truth, and said he was taking the unprecedented step of sending a copy to the BBC Director-General and the Broadcasting Complaints Commission.

He said the show was driven by malice on the part of Miss Rantzen and served merely to belittle and indoctrinate in an ill-considered, inconsiderate, manipulative and unscrupulous manner. I do not know what grip she has on the upper echelons at the BBC, but she seems to be holding the Corporation to Rantzen. She puts the network to shame."

Peter Paterson, in the *Daily*



Rantzen with her daughter Emily: the BBC said that she combined passion with top-class journalism

Mail, said Miss Rantzen was right to start with the ambivalence that many doctors had towards ME, but he went on: "I was sorry to see the great and good Dr Thomas Stuttford placed in the ducking stool for suggesting that ME may be a form of depression. And I can't really see that this new programme is different from such morning shout-ins as *The Time ... The*

Place." Matthew Bond in *The Times* described Dr Stuttford as being thrown to the lions when presenting the opposing view to Ms Rantzen and her "far from impartial studio audience". He added: "As you would expect from a *Times* man, Dr Stuttford went down fighting but it was still a dreadful sight to behold."

Anita Chaudhuri, reviewing the programme for *The*

Guardian, said that it failed to throw up anything new about the causes of ME. "However, a studio full of sufferers and supporters, all of whom were programmed to boo and heckle the moment any medical expert mentioned the words 'form of depression' did make for good television. The trouble with ME is that, now Esther Rantzen's got on the handwagon, it's going to

be very difficult to get her off. Boo, hiss."

Stafford Hildred in *The Sun* sided with Miss Rantzen, who had a "personal passion to get to the truth — when it comes to tripping up the pompous voice of authority and letting the people speak. Esther has few equals. The smug doctors were a lot less convincing than the people whose lives had been wrecked by ME."

Protecting a source can cloud the issue

SOME years ago, when I used to write the *Times* Diary, I came across a very good story about a bizarre mass beating at a famous public school. I carefully checked with both the boy who told me the story and his parents to make certain they had no objection to the story being used.

After it appeared as a paragraph in *The Times* it made headline news in all the tabloid newspapers. The family concerned, who remain very good friends, were always convinced they had never given permission for this, but they had — it was just that they had no idea when they agreed to the incident being made public how explosive an issue it was.

Philip Bennett, the obstetrician at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, west London, is probably one of the most surprised people in Britain today. What he presumably thought would be an interview of limited interest with a journalist has become one of the most debated subjects in medical ethics in the past decade.

The incident of the wholesale thrashing taught me a lesson. Now when patients, or others, tell me that they are very happy for me to use the facts of their case I make certain that they understand every possible consequence.

The general public are appalled by Professor Bennett's decision to carry out a late

abortion on one twin on the grounds of economic and social expediency. Most people accept that if after *in vitro* fertilisation too many of the implanted embryos are developing, so that the life of them all is jeopardised, the destruction of one or more so that the rest may survive is rational, necessary, but regrettable.

What has shocked the men and women I see is that a healthy baby has been aborted at a stage at which it is already complete and that it is being done not for the welfare of the remaining twin, but because of the straitened circumstances of the mother.

Those who look after families on welfare think that it is both remarkable and optimistic that anybody can be certain that such a woman could be relied upon to care ably for two further children.

Nobody who is concerned with twins would deny that they make a great deal of extra work and destroy sleep in the first few months of their lives. But fostering of the twins followed by a return to the mother when they are older and do not require such continuous care would have seemed a less contentious solution.

The public have been even more amazed by the news that a possible answer to the financial and material problems of the mother's household were not to be handed down to her. The argument

that it would imperil confidentiality to tell a patient about the public interest, and its munificence, seems particularly thin. If confidentiality has been breached, it happened when the story was first told to the press. The case may well have been a useful one for society to discuss, but it cannot have been of help to the individuals concerned.

Doctors are there not only to hand out prescriptions and wield forceps or the scalpel, but also have to look after the patient's material welfare. Poverty and the mother's incapacity to cope with it were the reasons given for the abortion and it therefore seems illogical to withhold the knowledge that £50,000 had been offered to preserve the life of the child.

Even if the surviving twin has the very best maternal care, its long-term psychiatric future is in doubt. Evidence shows that after the natural death in the womb of a twin the survivor is unusually liable to experience depression in later life. How much more damaging the knowledge, and the subsequent guilt, that they were the lucky chosen one if the child grows up knowing that his or her brother or sister was eradicated so that they might have a better lifestyle when a baby.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

Rising young star offered wealth of opportunities

By DOMINIC KENNEDY AND CAROL MIDDLEY

PHILLIP BENNETT is one of the world's leading young researchers into the prevention of miscarriages. Colleagues believe that his reputation should easily survive the furore over the aborted twin. He has just rejected the chance to double his salary in the United States in order to accept a professor's chair at Queen Charlotte's Hospital.

"Professor Bennett is one of the bright young stars in British obstetrics and gynaecology," Lord Winston, the test-tube baby pioneer, said. "He has done a lot of exciting work on the prevention of premature labour and he is a person a very large number of units in this country and

overseas were trying to recruit."

Professor Bennett, 37, has been married for six years to a midwife and is childless by choice. He was on a consultant's salary of about £45,000 at Queen Charlotte's last year when St George's, the teaching hospital in Tooting, south London, made clear that he was a prime candidate for its vacant chair of Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. The job would have entailed running a department and teaching students. He decided against it.

Knowing that King's College Hospital, London, and several foreign institutions were also keen to recruit him, Queen Charlotte's offered him a highly cherished "personal" chair. This carries a starting salary of about £55,000, but leaves him free to pursue his research without the burden of administrative duties or lecturing.

Professor Bennett is investigating how molecular biology can be applied to obstetrics to prevent miscarriages. Most professors have little to do with abortions, which are mainly left to more junior

doctors, but he is one of the few in Britain with the skill to perform a selective termination in a multiple pregnancy.

He was formerly a registrar at St George's, where Stuart Stanton, a consultant, said: "He is a good doctor clinically and a very bright researcher. I am sure he will weather this storm."

The story began with a remark by Professor Bennett to Caroline Phillips of the *Sunday Express* during an interview last Wednesday in the wake of the frozen embryos controversy. Ms Phillips, who had her baby at the hospital and is a member of its advisory committee, was to have written an article about the moral dilemmas facing doctors who carry out abortions.

"We talked about a whole range of issues, such as when a foetus can feel pain, the ethics of carrying out abortions at 40 weeks and the abortion pill," she said. "The story came out when I asked him what was the most difficult dilemma he had ever faced." The professor had been consulted about the final story before publication.

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School admission appeals increase 160% in six years

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A RECORD number of parents are trying to win their children places at popular schools but more are disappointed. Whitehall figures disclosed yesterday. Appeals by parents for admission to their first-choice school rose 20 per cent last year, but the success rate at formal hearings fell.

More parents are hiring barristers to represent them at appeal panels. Others have lied about their address, pretended to be regular churchgoers or invented medical conditions for their children to try to win appeals.

Government promises of parental choice and a growing awareness of rights of appeal were blamed yesterday for a 160 per cent rise in appeals over six years. In 1994-95, 54,427 appeals were lodged, of which 38,032 were heard and 14,839 were successful. The previous year, 45,876 appeals were lodged, 32,188 were heard and 13,255 were successful — 41 per cent compared with 39 per cent last year.

Saxon Spence, chairwoman of the Association of County Councils' education committee, said: "It has become a bit of a nightmare in some areas. Part of the solution must be making sure your schools are equally attractive so people are happy with their local

school rather than shopping around."

Mrs Spence, also education chairwoman in Devon, said: "We have had several extraordinary cases in Devon where children are within half a mile of their local school but because it is full they have got to go miles away."

The appeals are organised by the local education authority, but have an independent chairman. Tony Barron, education chairman in Hampshire, said: "Parents will give false addresses or say their children are living with grandparents who live near the school. They will say their children are 'bus phobic' or that they have to go to a particular school because they go to work in that direction. We rely on officers of the county council to go and check the address and make sure all the reasons given by parents for the appeal are correct."

Stephen Byers, the Labour education spokesman who released the figures, said: "This shows the extent to which this Government has deceived parents. It promised that they would be able to send children to the school of their choice, yet the reality is quite different."

"The Government has deliberately sought to raise the expectations of parents, leading many to believe that they

had a right to send their child to the school they chose. The hopes of thousands of parents have been dashed."

The Parent's Charter was updated two years ago to clarify their rights after claims that it exaggerated the ability to choose a school. It states: "You can say which school you would prefer your child to go to. Your choice is wider as a result of recent changes. As a general rule, you now have a right to a place in the school you want unless all the places at the school have been given to pupils who have a stronger claim to a place at that school."

A spokesman for the Education and Employment Department said that a recent survey for the National Foundation for Educational Research had found that 85 per cent of parents were satisfied with admissions procedures.

The spokesman said: "All parents have a right to appeal if they are refused a place and more parents are becoming aware of this right. The vast majority of parents do get a place at a school for which they have expressed a preference."

"It is thanks to this Government that parents have a second chance through the appeals system, and 40 per cent of them are successful."



Dublin welcomes Olympic heroine

By AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

MICHELLE SMITH, Ireland's triple Olympic champion, arrived in Dublin to a heroine's welcome yesterday. Clutching her three gold and one bronze medals, she stepped from the plane into torrential rain.

The weather cut the numbers who turned out to greet her and the rest of the Irish team: 60,000 had been expected to attend a rally in the city centre, but only about 6,000 braved the rain. The welcome was in stark contrast to the low-key affair at Gatwick, where only a few friends and families gathered to meet the returning British team.

In Dublin, Smith was first off the plane and was greeted on the tarmac by Mary Robinson, the Irish President, who congratulated her on her be-

haviour inside and outside the pool. The swimmer's unexpected success in Atlanta led to suggestions that she was using drugs to enhance her performance, an allegation that Smith denied repeatedly.

She and the other athletes travelled in open-topped buses from the airport to the General Post Office in O'Connell Street, where bands entertained, balloons were released and congratulatory banners were draped from homes, offices and shops.

At Gatwick, the biggest cheers were reserved for the oarsman Matthew Pinsent, who with Steve Redgrave won Britain's solitary gold medal, and for the silver medal winners Roger Black and Steve Backley.

Fan jailed for attack on goalie

A football fan who attacked a goalkeeper during a match was jailed for a year yesterday. Eric Harvie, 26, of Edinburgh, jumped on the Rangers player Andy Goram, apparently to try to force the abandonment of the game. Harvie's team, Hibernian, was losing 2-0. Goram twisted free and restrained Harvie. Sheriff Farrell, at Edinburgh Sheriff Court, said the assault "could have triggered major public disorder".

Boy dies in crash

A 14-year-old boy died and three other teenagers were badly injured when a stolen car crashed at high speed into a wall at Corse, near Gloucester. The youngsters had absconded from care in Apperley, Tewkesbury.

Shand Kydd case

Frances Shand Kydd, 60, mother of the Princess of Wales, was charged with driving with excess alcohol and failing to provide a breath sample at Oban Sheriff Court. The case was adjourned until August 12.

Skeleton mystery

A woman aged 70, arrested after a skeleton was found in a balcony flower bed, has been released pending inquiries. The skeleton, of an elderly woman, was unearthed outside a flat in St John's Wood, northwest London.

Fire boy caution

A boy aged 11 was cautioned after having started fires causing £100,000 damage in central Portsmouth. A police spokesman said: "Having regard to all circumstances and his mental state, it was decided a caution was appropriate."

Sea rescue

Brighton West Pier, the only Grade I listed pier, is to be saved from irreparable sea damage by almost £1 million of National Lottery grants, including an initial grant of £950,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Hamilton tribute

The widow of Geoff Hamilton, presenter of BBC's *Gardeners' World*, has agreed to allow the final programme he recorded to be shown on Friday as a tribute. Mr Hamilton, 59, died during a charity bicycle ride on Sunday.

CORRECTION

A television review of *Inside Story: The Lady Gans* (August 1) wrongly stated that one woman kept her gun in an unlocked kitchen cupboard. In fact the weapon is kept in a locked gun safe within the cupboard.

Tory's son on murder charge

THE son of a leading Conservative Party fundraiser was charged with his murder yesterday. Nicholas Bull, 28, a car salesman, was remanded for seven days by magistrates in Norwich.

Robert Bull, 59, a retired Post Office executive, was discovered on Sunday at his home in Costessey, Norfolk, where his son, a former vice-chairman of the Costessey Conservative Association, also lives. Mr Bull died from haemorrhaging and shock from shotgun wounds.

Jail order for 'nice people'

By A STAFF REPORTER

TWO "peace protesters" were sentenced to 28 days in prison yesterday after they refused to accept a court order to keep the peace. Richard Smith, 24, a Red Cross worker, and David Durham, 33, were found guilty of a public order offence when they tried to gain entry to a British Aerospace factory in Brough, Yorkshire.

Pocklington Magistrates' Court was told that the pair were acting with others in support of the four women who were cleared last week of damaging a Hawk jet. Protesters claim that the aircraft are

being sold illegally to the Indonesian military regime for use in East Timor where more than 200,000 people have died.

After being found guilty, Smith and Durham refused to be bound over and were found in contempt of court. Neville White, the stipendiary magistrate, said the pair should realise they were not martyrs: they were not being sentenced for their part in the demonstration, but for not accepting court punishment. He said: "I have some sympathy for your position. The last thing I want

to do is send particularly nice people like you to jail."

However an appeal was immediately lodged and the two protesters were granted unconditional bail pending a hearing at Hull Crown Court.

After the decision, Smith, of Birmingham, said he believed the magistrate had been wrong. "As the case last week showed we have a lawful excuse to demonstrate at British Aerospace bases to stop genocide. I refuse to be bound over because I will be going back to protest at the atrocities in East Timor."

Bradford draws line under Hockney's school

By KATE ALDERSON

THE Victorian school where David Hockney developed his love of art as a child is to be demolished to make way for houses.

Hockney, 59, who was born and raised in Bradford but now lives in Los Angeles, was a pupil at the Wellington School in Eccleshill in the 1940s. He attended the junior school between the ages of 8 and 11 and spent many hours doodling there.

One of his earliest works, a doodle showing a teacher grabbing a small child by the scruff of the neck, was drawn while he was a pupil. The derelict 120-year-old school, which has a Gothic style, was vandalised after it closed in 1993.

Bradford council has sold the property for about £250,000 to Allen Homes and the school will be bulldozed in the next fortnight. Its connection with the famous artist was not discovered until recently.



Hockney's doodle of life as a pupil at the school

Jon Silver, owner of Salts Mill, in nearby Saltaire, which houses a large Hockney collection, said: "I know David has fond memories of the old school and he has made a point of defending Bradford's architectural heritage."

Speaking from Los Angeles, Hockney lamented the destruction of another Victorian building in his home city: "The centre of Bradford is totally

different from when I lived there. It was a Victorian city."

He said he had happy memories of his old school and remembered its teachers as old fashioned but kindly and encouraging. "I remember teachers telling us the war was over and I ran home to tell my mother in case she didn't know," he said.

The school will make way for 27 new homes. Three quarters of the sale price can be used by the council to renovate other crumbling schools.

Ray Staniland, head of property services, said the school was not a listed building and the demolition programme had been brought forward because of extensive vandalism.

"The Hockney connection came out only recently, but it would have made no difference as the building is not listed," he said.

No opposition to the school's demolition has been received by the council.

Shotgun farmer 'was scared to death'

By A STAFF REPORTER

A FARMER who shot an intruder told police that he fired because he thought the man was going to kill him. Kenneth Hall, 63, said he never intended to hit Neil Hartley, 32, who was breaking into a car at his farm.

Mr Hall told police that, when he realised there was an intruder, "I was frightened to death. I didn't know what was out there, so I got the 12-bore out."

Mr Hall, of Thurstonland, west Yorkshire, said he put the lights on and let the dog out before going outside, where he saw Hartley kneeling by the car with his hand inside it. He told police: "He jumped up. He must have seen me with the gun. He said something to the effect of, 'I'll get you, you bastard. I've got a knife.'"

"I was frightened. As he was running round the car towards me, I went up with the gun, intending to shoot over his head. It went off," he said. "I was frightened I was going to get killed or injured. I wouldn't have shot at him if he hadn't come at me."

Hartley, from Huddersfield, who admitted theft at a hearing in December, told Bradford Crown Court yesterday that he had been running away from Mr Hall when he was hit. A Home Office scientist concluded that the shotgun when it was fired, Mr Hall denies causing grievous bodily harm with intent and an alternative charge of grievous bodily harm without intent. The case continues.

Antarctic scientists prone to infection

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

DOCTORS are baffled by a discovery that scientists working in Antarctica suffer from impaired immune systems. The finding fits in with anecdotal evidence that people coming home from a summer in Antarctica are unusually prone to colds and other minor infections in the first few weeks.

The population in Antarctica consists of fit people in the prime of life. They are spared infection largely because of the pristine conditions of the continent and its isolation, says Des Lugg, an Australian who has worked there.

But when infections arrive, they can spread rapidly. "The very big worry is that, if we introduced something dangerous down there, they would be unable to deal with it," said Dr Lugg, who is in Cambridge this week for an Antarctic conference.

Two Antarctic workers contracted hepatitis when they had themselves tattooed in New Zealand. When they returned to the Antarctic, the disease spread so rapidly that the research station had to be closed for a season.

Dr Lugg suggested that the increased ultra-violet light might be affecting the hormones and the immune system indirectly, or that the strain of isolation could affect the brain and the hormones, with similar results.

Rachel Campbell-Johnston, page 13
Shackleton auction, page 16



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York rivalled London as a centre of military power and as the temporary capital of the Empire

Unruly Tykes stretched Ninth Legion to the limit

BY ALAN HAMILTON

EVEN the Romans found Yorkshiremen difficult. Displaying the cussed independence of mind that marks them out to this day, they showed a marked reluctance to come to the imperial heel when called, and the Emperor Vespasian had to order up the Ninth Legion to sort them out.

Yorkshire was fine when it was run by a woman — a notion that present-day members of the county cricket club may find a little tough to digest. During the earliest years of occupation the Brigantes, the loose federation of northern English and southern Scottish tribes, had been well disposed towards the incomers. Their queen, Cartimandua, had a deal with the Romans that she would keep the peace in the north from her headquarters at Stanwick, near the modern town of Richmond.

But in AD 71 she lost the throne to her estranged husband, Venutius, who led the north in revolt. In that same year the Ninth moved north from its former base at Lincoln and established a new fort and headquarters at Eboracum, from which it directed all subjugation and peacekeeping in the north for the next three centuries.

York grew in size and stature, its defences occasionally strengthened and enlarged, until it rivalled London in wealth and importance.



The perfectly preserved hairpiece found in a cemetery

When the northerners were being particularly troublesome, the Emperor himself journeyed from Rome and set up his court there to direct operations. It became Aldershot and Windsor rolled into one, a major garrison town and, with the Emperor in residence, temporary capital of the Roman empire.

Hadrian probably visited York during his wall-building mission in 122; Severus died there while campaigning against the recalcitrant Caledonians in 211; and Constantine was proclaimed Emperor there in 306 while fighting with his father.

Substantial and impressive sections of the fortress's outer wall, its plan in the standard

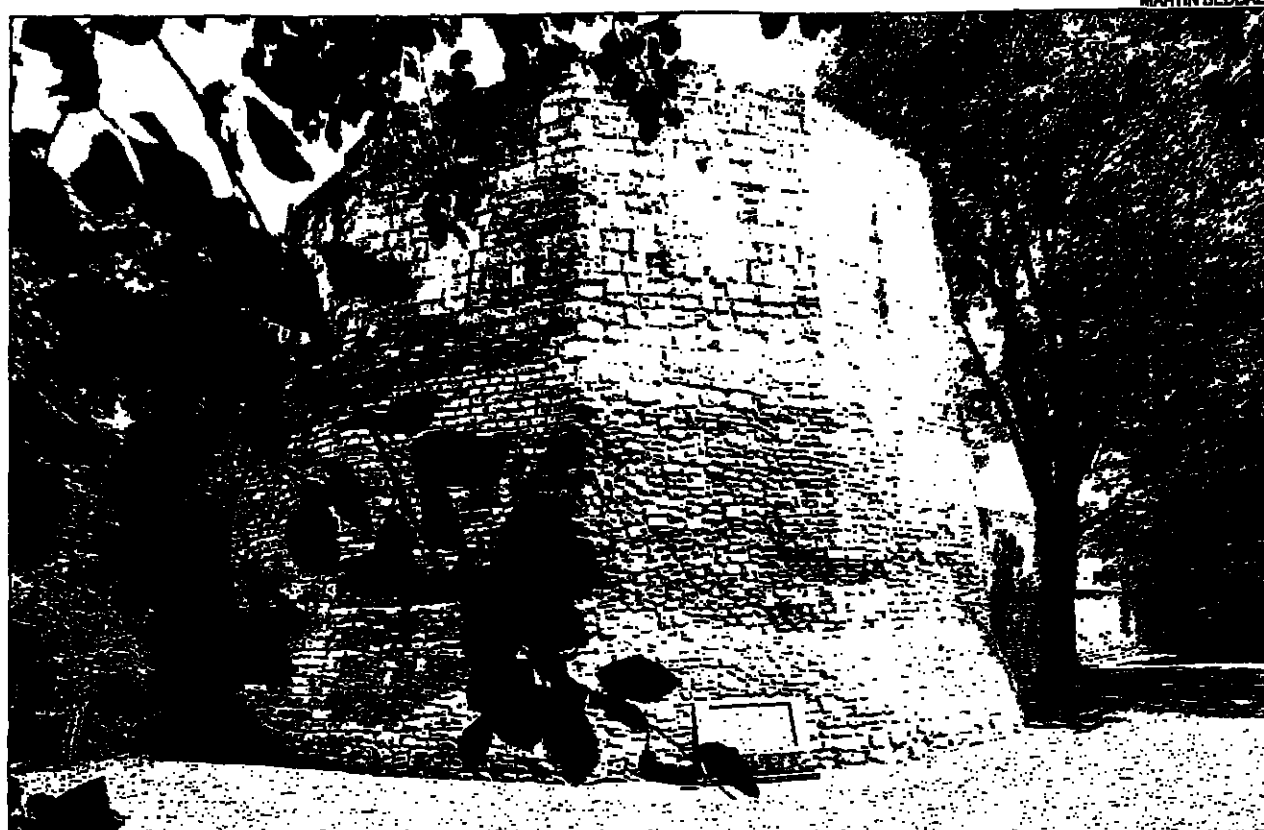
Roman shape of a playing card, are visible in the city centre, but the buildings of modern York mean that excavation is restricted. Little has been uncovered of the fort, and even less of the substantial *colonia*, or civilian town, that grew up opposite on the south bank of the Ouse.

Last century the builders of York railway station un-

covered traces of a massive bath-house complex. Digging elsewhere, particularly in the Roman cemeteries, has unearthed a superb and virtually complete floor mosaic and several magnificent and ornate tombstones, indicating a wealthy, cosmopolitan and cultured city that attracted soldiers, merchants and the rich and influential from all corners of the empire.

The 3rd century tomb of a lady called Julia Velva, now in the Yorkshire Museum, is especially fine, showing the lady herself reclining on a chaise-longue with a wine jar in her hand and her husband and children around her. But the museum's most poignant human exhibit is a perfectly preserved bank of beautiful auburn hair held with two carved jet hairpins, assumed to be the hairpiece of a glamorous inhabitant of 3rd century York, and recovered from a nearby cemetery.

During the 1960s, when the central tower of York Minster was pronounced in serious danger of collapse, archaeologists had an immense stroke of good luck. As engineers dug



The tower that formed the northwestern corner of the Ninth Legion's fortress at Eboracum. Only the base is Roman

deep in the undercroft to install massive new concrete underpinning, they came across the remains of the fort's basilica, the long columned room forming the centrepiece of the military headquarters.

In its Roman heyday, York was a city of large, elegant,

expensively decorated, centrally heated and fully plumbed town houses occupied by persons of quality. By that late stage in the Roman era, some of them may even have been Yorkshiremen.

Tomorrow: Chester

A DISH TO SET BEFORE AN EMPEROR

A Roman recipe from the 1st century AD is among the exhibits in the Roman Galleries of the Yorkshire Museum.

Put asparagus tips in a mortarum (heavy bowl) and pound. Add wine and pass through a sieve. Pound together pepper, lovage, fresh

coriander, savory, onion and add wine, garum (a fish sauce related to Lea and Perrins' Worcestershire sauce) and oil. Put puree and spices into a greased shallow dish and, if you wish, break eggs over it when it is on the fire so that the mixture sets. Sprinkle finely ground pepper over it and serve.

Where all roads lead to Romans

ROMAN York is easily accomplished on foot, and takes in much else on the way in a city seriously overprovided with tourist honeypots. Begin at Museum Gardens — five minutes' walk from York station — with a visit to the Yorkshire Museum.

Its centrepiece is a bust of Constantine, but the recently redesigned galleries house an excellent collection of grave-stones, artefacts and the famous bank of Roman hair, plus good explanatory material on the Roman occupation of northern Britain, excellent floor mosaic and fragments of decorative wall plaster from the camp at Catricken (they were there long before latter-day conscripts reported for National Service).

From the museum, inspect the adjoining Multiangular Tower, a substantial survivor of the Roman defences, then walk alongside the Roman wall to Bootham Bar, one of York's medieval gateways.

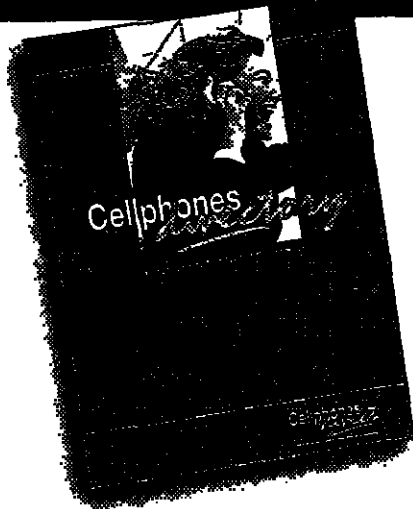
Climb the staircase on to the medieval wall, which follows the line of the Roman fortifications. At Monk Bar you are forced to descend to the street, but ascend again on the other side and walk the wall a little further to see substantial remains of the Roman original.

Retrace your steps to Monk Bar, descend and walk along Goodramgate to the Minster, inspecting the re-erected Roman pillar on the way. Enter the Minster by the West Door and descend to the undercroft to inspect the discoveries made in the late 60s — not only Roman, but Norman and medieval.

Some guidebooks speak of the drainage system for the city's bathhouse, inspected down a manhole by prior arrangement with the museum. This is not currently open to the public.

□ Museum admission £3 and concessions (open Mon-Sat 10-5, Sun 1-5); Minster undercroft admission £1.80.

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MI5 appeals for power to tap digital mobile phones

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE intelligence services are seeking new powers to intercept conversations on digital mobile telephones, which can be used by terrorists and organised criminals without fear of eavesdropping.

The telephones, which cost as little as £5, are a challenge for the most sophisticated computerised decoding techniques used by MI5 and Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch.

Each telephone has its own "rolling" code, which scrambles every call. Conversations could be intercepted easily, however, if the intelligence services were given access to the encryption keys, which are known only to the telephone companies.

MI5 and the anti-terrorist branch have urged the Department of Trade and Industry to grant them access to the encryption keys as part of new legislation being drawn up to safeguard the burgeoning international telecommunications network.

The threat posed by mobile telephones is understood to have been discussed at the

anti-terrorism conference attended by the Group of Seven nations in Paris last month.

More than 40 countries are linked into the global system for mobile communications (GSM), which allows untappable telephone calls to be made between them as part of a so-called "roaming agreement". This means that terrorists and criminals can communicate around the world without the risk of eavesdropping.

"The most secure form of communication today is for one GSM subscriber in one country to phone another GSM subscriber in another country," a spokesman for Cellnet said. "There is a rolling code which means that every call is individually coded."

Vodafone said that there were 15 million GSM subscribers around the world.

The security risk has increased greatly because of the rapid rise in digital mobile telephones in the past 12 months. Vodafone and Cellnet, the two biggest mobile telephone companies in Britain, are linked into GSM, as

are countries in the Middle East and Africa. Cellnet has about 500,000 digital subscribers, 443,000 of whom bought their telephones in the last 12 months. Vodafone has 718,000 digital subscribers, a rise of 38 per cent in the past quarter.

All these telephones have the benefit of a code, carried inside a smartcard in the handset, which scrambles speech. Only a few people in the telephone companies are authorised to gain access to the codes, and then only when a telephone needs to be checked for maintenance.

The primary aim of the DTI's proposals is to protect information from snooping. The plan is to license a "trusted third party", probably a banking organisation, which would be responsible for providing special encryption services to protect the confidentiality of electronic information.

MI5 and the police, however, have urged the DTI to give them authority to apply for the encryption keys to digital mobile telephones used

by suspected terrorists and organised criminals.

The new policy will include the legal safeguards that already exist when MI5 and the police apply for a warrant to tap telephones and open mail. Security authorities would be given access only to the code for specific mobile telephones.

At their recent conference, President Clinton and the other G7 leaders called for all nations to unite to fight terrorism. Frederick Piper, Professor of Mathematics at Royal Holloway College, London University, said: "One way for nations to agree about the interception of international communications."

The DTI will bring forward legislation after a consultation period. It said: "There is a growing demand for encryption services. In developing an encryption policy for the information society, we have also had to consider how the spread and availability of encryption technology will affect the ability of the authorities to continue to fight serious crime and terrorism."



Disgruntled Laker Airways passengers at Gatwick during their 49-hour delay

Laker tourists take off after 49-hour delay

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

SIR FREDDIE LAKER, the pioneer of cut-price transatlantic air travel, was given a rude welcome back to the market yesterday when 353 of his passengers were delayed for more than 49 hours.

Sir Freddie began offering regular flights again in May. But he was forced to begin the service with three "borrowed" aircraft, and when one had to go for maintenance and another was damaged in a storm, chaos ensued.

With passengers stranded at Gatwick and Manchester, all Sir Freddie — who was enjoying a barbecue at his home in Florida to celebrate his 74th birthday yesterday — could do was to "sincerely regret" the delays.

John Truncker, who paid £4,000 for his family's three-week holiday in Orlando, said as he finally went through the departure gate at the twelfth attempt: "We would like to barbecue him."

Sir Freddie had chartered a 747 jet to try to salvage the situation, but this then developed a fault on the door. Finally a Laker aircraft arrived at Gatwick yesterday, but failed initially to get a take-off slot.

The explanations did not go down well. Dozens of passengers refused to leave the main concourse at Gatwick until they had received a guarantee that their holiday would begin. Even when they were handed a letter written by Sir Freddie — which informed them that it was his birthday — they would not be pacified. Police had kept an eye on the passengers, who were



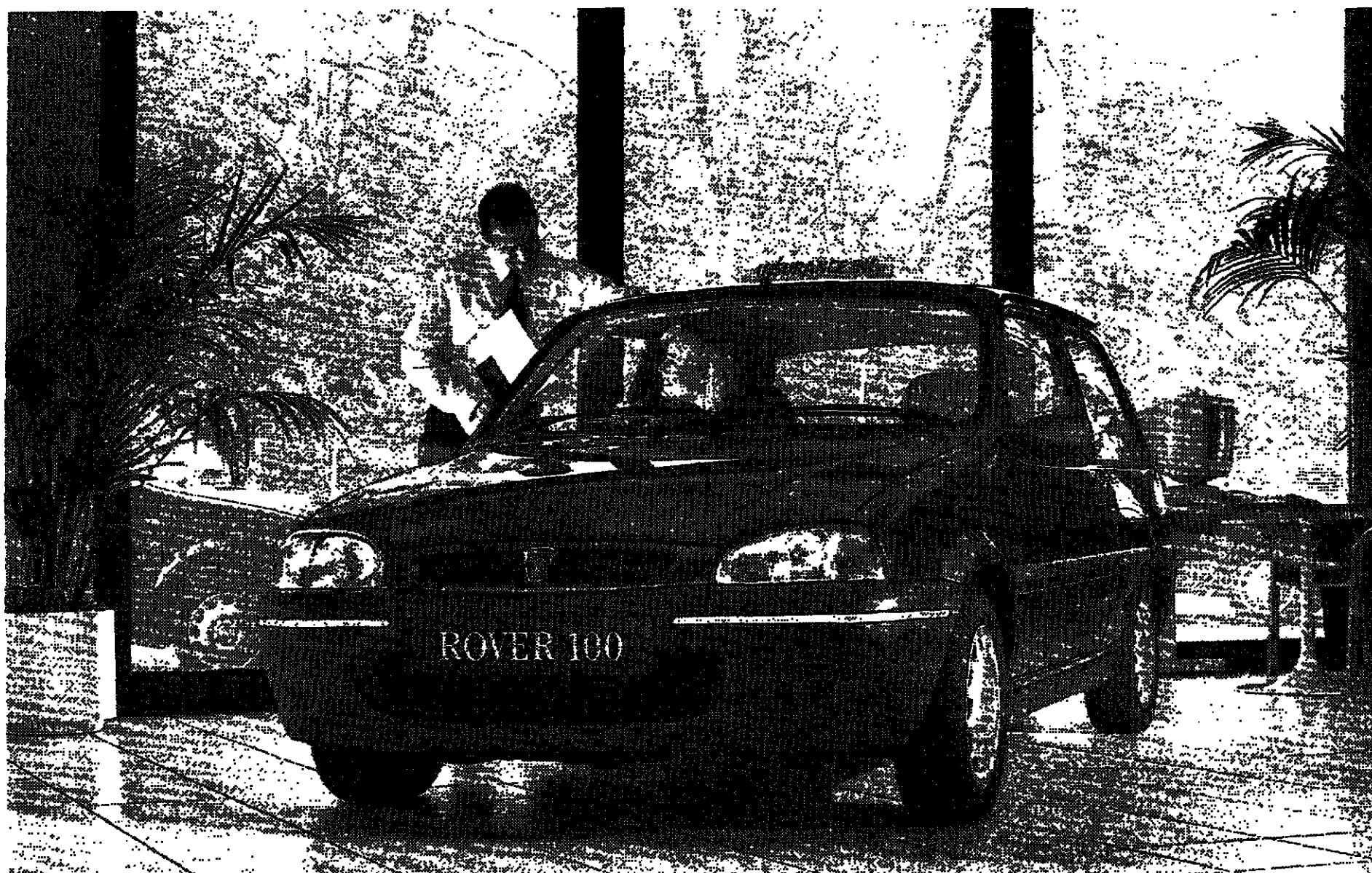
Laker: he celebrated his birthday in Florida

forced to give back their duty-free purchases and could not retrieve their baggage, which had been checked in on Sunday.

They thought it was suspicious when they arrived at Gatwick to be told that they were being taken to an hotel for the day. They were angry that notes from Laker Airways, warning them of further delays, were pushed under the door rather than the representatives telling them to their faces.

Nicholas Hooper, 24, from Shanklin, Isle of Wight, who had saved for three years for his holiday, said: "When we were told it was Freddie's birthday we had a great singalong. But I won't tell you some of the words."

Laker Airways said that many of the passengers' accounts were inaccurate. "We have bent over backwards to do everything we can," a spokeswoman said. "No one wanted anything like this to occur, but every airline has delays. It's very sad." Six families chose not to take the flight and would be refunded.



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Republican heavy guns concentrate their fire on 'vulnerable' First Lady

FROM TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON

LEADING Republicans, convinced that Hillary Clinton has become her husband's greatest liability, yesterday claimed that the First Lady was personally involved in clandestine efforts to fire seven members of the White House travel office.

The allegations, which contradict Mrs Clinton's sworn testimony

about her role in the so-called "Travelgate" scandal, came as Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, was said to be expanding his Whitewater investigation to seek further indictments by the end of September, only five weeks before the presidential election.

A Republican review of White House records has indicated Mrs Clinton demanded that two top aides take action against the White House travel staff two days before

they were sacked in May 1993. Mack McLarty, the former White House chief of staff, and Harry Thompson, the Hollywood producer and Clinton acolyte, both told Congress that Mrs Clinton had played a part in the débacle.

"I believe the First Lady had a serious concern about this matter, and I felt pressure from her to take it seriously and to act upon it if necessary," said Mr McLarty in congressional documents made

public for the first time yesterday. Mr Thompson, who choreographed the Clinton inauguration and later sought a position at the White House, testified that Mrs Clinton told him the travel office staff "must be gotten out".

Mrs Clinton's possible role in the firings first surfaced in a 1993 memo drafted by David Watkins, the former head of White House administration. The note said that there would be "hell to pay" if he

did not purge the travel office in line with the First Lady's wishes to "get our people in and get those people out".

William Clinger, the Republican chairman of the House government reform and oversight committee, said the congressional review of meetings, telephone calls and contacts, including a limited examination of 2,000 pages being withheld by the White House under executive privilege, supported the

memo. Mr Watkins claimed he had been forced to take action under pressure from Mrs Clinton, Mr McLarty, Mr Thompson and Vincent Foster, the former deputy counsel found shot dead in a park outside Washington soon afterwards.

"Why did the White House go to such lengths to prevent us from knowing this?" Mr Clinger asked. "Mr Clinton's claims of executive privilege are for his political sec-

urity, not national security." The release by Congress of testimony given in June reflects a new Republican impetus behind the Whitewater and travel office investigations after last week's partial acquittal of two Arkansas bankers which the White House claimed as a victory for the President. Herby Branscum and Robert Hill had been accused of misusing funds to promote Mr Clinton's political career.

Dole plan for tax cuts at odds with 'feelgood' factor

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

IT HAS taken many months, but Bob Dole has finally produced a genuine issue on which to fight November's presidential election.

With Monday's call for massive tax cuts to "unshackle the US economy from the big government ball-and-chain", the Republican nominee has at last drawn a clear distinction between himself and President Clinton and rallied his party's conservative base before next week's convention.

Mr Dole is reclaiming the pro-growth standard that gave the Republicans three successive White House victories in the 1980s. He is embracing the populism and blithe economic optimism that served Ronald Reagan so well, but whether that formula can still work in the mid-1990s is

highly questionable. Despite a wave of hostile editorials and Wall Street scepticism yesterday, Republicans insist it will. They say its continuing potency was proved by Christine Todd Whitman's dramatic victory in New Jersey's 1993 governor's election after promising 30 per cent tax cuts.

The White House's feverish reaction to Mr Dole's announcement showed it too fears the promise of drastically reduced taxation still resonates with voters. Within hours it was broadcasting advertisements in about 25 key states that accused Mr Dole of "gambling with our future" with a "risky last-minute scheme that would balloon the deficit". Mr Dole's promise of \$548 billion (£355 billion) in tax cuts over the next six years,

including a 15 per cent across-the-board income tax reduction, just might prove the elixir his floundering campaign desperately needs, but equally it could prove suicidal.

Mr Dole's strategy is based on the assumption that Americans are as economically discontented as they were after the malaise of the Carter years in 1980, or again in 1992 when President Bush's apparent lack of a plan for ending the recession cost him his job.

But opinion polls and other data suggest that it is not the case. With his customary lack of serendipity, Mr Dole made his announcement on the day America's index of leading economic indicators reached a record high. Last week government figures showed the economy expanding at a robust 4.2 per cent, hardly the "anaemic" growth of which Mr Dole complained. Inflation, interest rates and unemployment are all very low, and the federal deficit has halved during Mr Clinton's first term.

The benefits of America's economic recovery have been unevenly distributed, but a new poll in *The Washington Post* shows Americans trust Mr Clinton more than Mr Dole on economic issues and 56 per cent approve of the President's economic performance — his highest rating since February 1993. Half the respondents felt better off under Mr Clinton and only 29 per cent worse off.

After 15 years in which the national debt has quintupled to \$5,000 billion, voters are also far more aware of the corrosive effects of endless annual deficits. The same *Washington Post* poll showed that 58 per cent would rather see the budget balanced than their taxes cut.

Mr Dole is, of course, promising to cut taxes and balance the budget, but most economists and many newspaper editorials yesterday dismissed his assumption that tax cuts would generate an extra \$217 billion through faster growth.

Hardliners destroy deal on abortion

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AMERICAN conservatives have dealt Bob Dole a humiliating blow in the run-up to next week's Republican convention by defeating his attempt to soften the party's rigid anti-abortion stand.

A coalition of the Religious Right and Pat Buchanan supporters on the committee drawing up the party manifesto in San Diego this week rejected the compromise language the Republican presidential nominee had suggested this summer.

"Pro-choice" Republicans said that Mr Dole's defeat would undermine his efforts to attract the crucial votes of moderate suburbanites, especially women, this November. The White House said Mr Dole's defeat showed that the Religious Right now controlled the Republican Party. "Tolerance went out of the window in favour of Pat Buchanan and Pat Robertson," Mike McCurry, President Clinton's spokesman, said.

The Republican manifesto in every election since 1976 has called for a constitutional amendment outlawing abortion, but it has become a symbol of the party's perceived intolerance and polls indicate nearly three-quarters of the electorate opposing such an extreme position.

In June, Mr Dole launched an attempt to soften it. He said that the call for a constitutional amendment should be accompanied by a "declaration of tolerance" that would state: "We also recognise that members of our party have deeply held, and sometimes differing, views on issues of personal conscience like abortion and capital punishment." He told an interviewer: "It has been resolved. It is non-negotiable."

On Monday night conservatives forced Mr Dole to back down by threatening to disrupt the convention. They deflected his proposal any reference to "tolerance" in relation to abortion.



Giselle Howard, the two alleged phone-tappers Carlos Sanchez, top, and Carlos Fernandez, middle, and Prince Felipe

Georgia belle denies royal romance

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

UNDER oath in a New York courthouse a long-legged blonde from Georgia denied, in an elastic Southern accent, that she was sizing up to be the next Queen of Spain.

Giselle Howard, 26, said that she was not, repeat not, the girlfriend of Prince Felipe, the heir to the Spanish throne. Miss Howard was appearing at the Manhattan Supreme Court trial of a man accused of tapping her telephone illegally. He allegedly hoped to garner details of her "romance".

Asked if she was stepping out with the prince, 28, Miss Howard gave forth an emphatic "not". A lawyer acting for the accused asked her if, since rumours of

her royal dalliance started, it was not true that she had become a target for the world's paparazzi. "Yes," sighed Miss Howard, wearing a cream silk trouser suit and a cool expression. "Because you are the girlfriend of the prince of Spain?" Michael Hertzberg, the lawyer, asked. Miss Howard: "No. Because people believe I am a girlfriend of Felipe."

In the public gallery of the court sat many Spanish reporters, anxious to convey the latest news back to their homeland where Miss Howard, a former model, has become a source of great speculation. She has been compared to the late Grace Kelly, the last American to become part of European royalty when she married Prince Rainier of Monaco.

Gossip was fuelled when Miss Howard and Prince Felipe, who is studying in

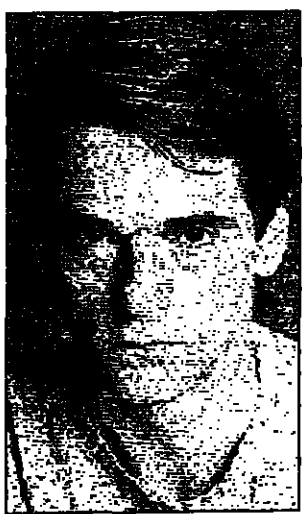
America, were photographed together in the Caribbean surf, strolling in New York's Central Park, and entwined in hugs. Reports said that Queen Sofia had approved Miss Howard and, in her home state of Georgia, there was excitement at the possibility the local girl could end up calling a Madrid palace home.

The court heard a tape made last summer in which Miss Howard was asked: "Can you imagine being the Queen of Spain?" She replied: "It is too soon for that."

Carlos Sanchez, a photographer, has pleaded not guilty to bugging the telephone at Miss Howard's former New York flat. He and Carlos Fernandez, an alleged accomplice, who will be tried separately, face up to four years in jail if found guilty.

Steamy 'Lolita' scares off Americans

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES



Irons: no stranger to explicit sex scenes

JEREMY IRONS, one of Britain's most respected exports to Hollywood, may never be seen by American audiences in his next film because it depicts him having sexual intercourse with a 14-year-old girl.

Irons, 47, plays Professor Humbert Humbert in an intensely controversial remake of Vladimir Nabokov's *Lolita*. Directed by the British connoisseur of screen sex, Adrian Lyne, the film has no American backer six months after filming was completed. As one studio executive put it this week: "No one [in Hollywood] will touch it."

The new *Lolita* was made for \$50 million (£30 million) by the French company Chag-

eurs, which expects only slight resistance from continental censors to the film's graphic sex and nudity despite the fact that the lead is played by a 14-year-old Malibu schoolgirl.

The North American market is proving harder to crack. With presidential politics shining a spotlight on Hollywood morals, "this movie was doomed from the start", Mr Lyne said this week, just after Bob Dole, the Republican presidential nominee, urged studios to make more wholesome action films. In an acid reference to Mr Dole's apparent tolerance for films with a high body count, Mr Lyne said: "If I were doing a movie about a 13-year-old getting

chopped up by a cannibal, there'd be no problem."

No stranger to sexual scandal, Mr Lyne also directed 9½ Weeks, Fatal Attraction and Indecent Proposal, all boasting explicit sex scenes but all involving only consenting adults. Mr Irons is likewise a veteran of screen sex, with such stars as Meryl Streep in *The French Lieutenant's Woman* and Juliette Binoche in *Damage*.

Both men are breaking new ground with *Lolita*, however. The choice of Dominique Swain, an unknown in her first year of high school, for the female lead, is certain to raise the hackles of politicians, moralists and censors alike.

Death penalty for child killer

Los Angeles: A jury has recommended the death penalty for Richard Allen Davis, whose murder of a 12-year-old girl three years ago triggered the "three strikes" legislation aimed at cracking down on serial criminals (Giles Whittill writes).

The disappearance of Poty Klaas from her home in California prompted a two-month nationwide hunt. When Davis confessed to the murder and it emerged that he had other assaults on women on his record, grief turned to public outrage.

Pete Wilson, the state Governor, and Dianne Feinstein, the Democratic senator, spoke at the funeral and demanded tough new laws.

Disaster of Flight 800 'began in cargo hold'

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A TRAIL of luggage and clothing which fell from TWA Flight 800 has been found in the Atlantic up to six miles from the main crash site, it was disclosed yesterday.

The debris has strengthened suspicions that something went wrong in the cargo hold of the Boeing 747 jet, which crashed with the loss of 230 lives. The fact that the luggage was found so far from the main wreckage of the jumbo jet suggests that Flight 800's problems started in the hold, before spreading to the rest of the aircraft. After an estimated 24 seconds the jet burst into flames.

If, as suspected, the crash was caused by a bomb, it may have been hidden in the hold rather than elsewhere on the jetliner. Earlier theories have included bombs being placed in the cockpit, in the first-class section's galley, or in one of the forward lavatories.

The latest TWA debris was found by a US Navy search vessel equipped with a submersible camera. Shirts, trousers and a baseball cap were seen in the water, and closer examination of the seabed in the area betrayed pathetic suitcases, some still with their luggage labels and holiday stickers.

Linguists say what keeps Spanish alive is the flow of Latin American immigrants to the area. A cutback in immigration would kill Spanish fluency in Miami within a generation.

Calls for a bilingual public school system have met local resistance. "Bilingualism is a bad word in the current anti-immigration climate," Ms Fradd said.

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Beef farmers flee Chirac heartland for the city

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PLATEAU DE MILLEVACHES

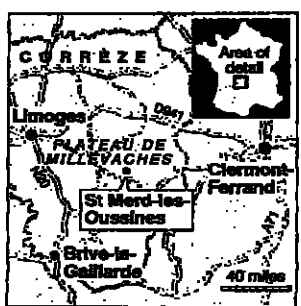
THE thousands of cows that gave this verdant hilltop its name may soon be reduced to a mere handful, according to residents of the Plateau de Millevaches who fear that the effects of the "mad cow" disease crisis could be the final blow to a farming population that has steadily dwindled over the past five decades.

Even before the BSE crisis sent beef prices plummeting, French farmers were dying off at the rate of almost 5 per cent a year. As late as the Second World War, agricultural workers made up 40 per cent of the French population, but today fewer than 2 per cent earn their living from the land. Between 1993 and last year more than 66,000 family farms vanished, according to figures from the Ministry of Agriculture.

René Courteix, Mayor of the tiny town of St Merd-les-Oussines perched on this plateau in the heart of the Corrèze region of central France, has seen the value of his herd of Limousin cattle dwindle since March. "It is catastrophic. Already some of the younger farmers are

going under and heading to the cities," he observed.

Driving through this rolling countryside, the effects of rural depopulation are visible in the many boarded-up stone houses, some already in ruins. "Last century St Merd had a population of more than 500 people, now we are reduced to just over a hundred," M Courteix said. For the French Government, the gradual "desertification" of the land, now compounded by the effects of mad cow disease, represents a psychological as well as a political crisis, not least for President Chirac who has made much of his rural roots in the Corrèze. M Chirac was raised in Brive-la-Gaillarde, and the Corrèze is



often referred to as his personal fiefdom. He is, the locals proclaim proudly, the only President of the Fifth Republic able to milk a cow. Now, M Courteix insists, M Chirac must milk Brussels for increased compensation to help beleaguered French cattle farmers.

On the road leading to St Merd, cardboard placards nailed to gateposts state: "We need a fixed price for our cows this autumn" — they are remnants of the protests over mad cow disease earlier this year. Many French farmers blame Britain for the disaster but M Courteix insists: "This crisis has been building for a long time".

In February the French Government began offering incentives to the rural population, including relief on social security charges and reduced property taxes, in an effort to anchor the declining rural population to the land. French farms have grown in size just as they have shrunk in number. On the Plateau de Millevaches, farmers have taken to planting conifers and begun diversifying into sheep, but in many cases the land is



Jacques Chirac likes to make much of his rural links to the Corrèze, but locals are fearful of mad cow disease and the end of a way of life

simply being allowed to lie unused.

Cattle breeders are not the only sufferers. Many grain farmers blame European Union rules, which require land to lie fallow to prevent over-production, for reducing profits and accelerating the flow of young people to cities.

The statistics show that France is no longer a land of country people, but that conceit remains central to the national self-image. This month millions of city-dwellers will head to the countryside for a month of bucolic relaxation for, as one historian has observed, "a French-

man's second home is his castle".

In the past local men travelled north to carry out seasonal labour as stonemasons and the like. Now they go, but they do not come back," M Courteix said. "Instead we have seasonal people who come from Paris for a

few weeks and then leave again."

Robert Mazaud, 80, said: "This cow disease may be the end. Not a single cow here has caught this plague, but we are suffering. It does not make sense," he says, draining his glass.

M Mazaud's bafflement is repeated across the Plateau de Millevaches as the remaining farmers watch their once rich land left to grow weeds, their cattle suddenly rendered cheap and the cows themselves, shining with good health, threatened by the effects of an unknown disease from a foreign land.

Chechen raiders seize Grozny strongpoints

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

CHECHEN rebels launched a daring counter-offensive against Russian forces in the breakaway republic yesterday, capturing parts of the capital, Grozny, and laying siege to two smaller towns.

In the fiercest fighting witnessed in Chechnya since a similar guerrilla operation five months ago, hundreds of separatist fighters poured into Grozny in a dawn raid that underscored Russia's tenuous hold on the shattered city.

At least 20 Russian troops were killed and nearly 100 wounded. Russian armoured personnel carriers were left burning in the streets and up to four helicopters were shot down.

The rebels, who may have received assistance from supposedly pro-Russian militiamen, seized key buildings in the devastated city centre and kept the Russians pinned down with sniper fire for most

of the day. Government troops eventually called up helicopter gunships in an attempt to flush them out.

Similar fighting was reported in the towns of Argun and Gudermes.

The operation was led by Shamil Basayev, the veteran Chechen commander, who masterminded last year's hostage-taking operation in Budennovsk and the surprise attack on Grozny in March, when the rebels seized and held large parts of the city for several days.

"The actions in Grozny have a single aim — showing that the war in Chechnya is not over yet," said Aslan Maskhadov, the Chechen chief of staff and the leading moderate in the rebel hierarchy. His remarks were interpreted as a signal to President Yeltsin that, unless he calls off the current Russian offensive against

rebel strongholds in the mountains, he can expect further attacks.

Mr Yeltsin was returning to work from three weeks' rest at a sanatorium after his reelection on July 3. Many fear that the rebels may try to mount a spectacular operation on Friday, when the Russian leader is due to be sworn in for another term.

In Moscow, the sense of foreboding deepened when a small bomb was detonated next to Rublyovskoye Shosse, the main route taken by the Kremlin leadership to work. The device, which caused no casualties, blew up minutes before Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, drove past in a heavily protected cavalcade.

The Russian authorities reacted angrily to the latest violence and Sergei Stepashin, the head of the government commission on Chechnya,

ruled out any further talks with the rebels unless they denounced the raids.

Miners' threat. Russian miners told the Government they will hold an all-out national strike unless it pays billions of rubles in wage arrears by August 25.

As tens of thousands of miners in the Far East and southern Russia began returning to work yesterday after several days of stoppages, they issued a fresh ultimatum. Vitali Budko, the chairman of the independent miners' union, said after a meeting in Moscow that his members were still owed more than £200 million in back pay.

"The problem of non-payments is an issue for the Government to tackle. Why should miners suffer?" he asked. "If the Government does not fulfil our demands, we will start the strike on August 25."



Titanic holidaymakers will visit her grave

Cruise to Titanic plumbs the depths

BY TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

LATER this month some 2,200 passengers will cruise to the site of the *Titanic*, accompanied by Burt Reynolds, the former astronaut Buzz Aldrin, and a manifest of those who died when she struck an iceberg on her maiden voyage on April 15, 1912.

The cruise — costing between £1,200 and £4,000 a head — is the latest brainchild of George Tulloch, who two years ago won temporary salvage rights to the world's most famous shipwreck. His company, RMS Titanic Inc, has plumbed ever greater depths of tackiness in its exploitation of the disaster.

This time, Mr Tulloch has promised that a "section of the hull will be recovered" from the *Titanic* within full view of the captive audience on board the two cruise liners. In fact, all that will be raised is a 33ft section of hull plating. He also intends to floodlight part of the ship for underwater cameras.

British survivors and relatives of those who went down have been horrified at the prospect of the underwater *son et lumière*.

Germans insist on fat slice of Euro-cake

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMANS, subtly revising their idealistic views on Europe, are outraged that they cannot have their cake and eat it. On a broad spectrum of issues, from subsidies to new Brussels rulings for bakeries, Bonn is at odds with the European Commission.

The latest dispute hits at a German institution: the Sunday ritual of coffee and cake with friends and relatives; a weekend event that seems to have spread to every day of the week. Like all European bakers, German cake-makers have access to subsidised European butter, providing they keep within strict guidelines about the proportion of flour used in the pastry.

Now the German Finance Ministry has informed pastry makers about Brussels directive 670/88 concerned with reducing the butter mountain. The finished cake must, according to Brussels, be at least 51 per cent flour to qualify for cheaper butter.

"If this ruling stays in force, cakes, from sweet croissants to fruit tarts, will have to be 15 per cent more expensive," said Eberhard Gröbel, chairman of the Bakers' Association, which represents 23,000 cake-makers. "We demand that the Finance Minister reverse this new, nonsensical European decree from Brussels."

Similar protests can be heard across the political and economic landscape in Germany, much to the irritation of Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, who is trying to steer the country towards acceptance of tighter political union and a single European currency.

On monetary union, two-thirds of Germans are pitted against Herr Kohl, but until recently it has been assumed that there was basic support for the Chancellor's political aims. That assumption no longer holds water.

Kurt Biedenkopf, the Prime Minister of Saxony, for example, is on a confrontation course with the European Commission over his decision to grant more than £100 million of subsidies for Volkswagen, which has been building up its production in the eastern province. The Bonn Government has admitted that Saxon determination to carry on paying subsidies — and thus guarantee 28,000 jobs — amounts to a breach of European law. Dr Biedenkopf, a former Christian Democratic rival to Herr Kohl, insists that the help for Volkswagen is well within the plan agreed with the European Union in 1991.

Saxony would never have agreed to the ratification of the Maastricht treaty if it had not been for this clause, Dr Biedenkopf said.

"For me, it is completely unthinkable that Brussels should decide how East Germany should be recon-

structed... if you want to destroy Europe, then the way to do it is through this kind of centralism."

Opinion polls show former East Germans to be the most Euro-sceptical. In part this is because many eastern companies can compete with low-wage neighbours, such as Poland, only if they are generously subsidised, and the European Commission is increasingly speaking out against such help.

The first sign of a deep conflict between the Commission and Bonn came in the case of Bremer Vulkan, the troubled shipbuilder. Subsidies which were supposed to modernise former East German yards were being used instead to prop up the mis-managed western part of the company and preserve jobs.

Since that crisis erupted last year, Karel van Miert, the Competition Commissioner, has been studying more carefully the destination of German subsidies. There are suspicions that foreign companies have been attracted to Germany by offers of subsidised electricity prices. The overall aim is to keep Germany competitive, even though its labour costs are among the highest in Europe, and above all to meet the Chancellor's goal of creating two million new jobs by 2000.

This target is difficult to square, however, with Herr Kohl's overall European strategy of cutting public spending to meet monetary union entry criteria by 1997.

The result is growing confusion about the direction of European policy. In the south, there are loud political protests against the amount that Germany contributes to the European budget and fears as to how European enlargement will be financed.



A mask of Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, on a shop dummy in Bonn

Letters, page 15

Russia ready to crown Tsar Boris

BY RICHARD BEESTON

AS FINAL preparations were under way yesterday for Boris Yeltsin's lavish swearing-in this week, Russians were left wondering whether they had elected a tsar or a President.

From the ceremonial guards in 19th-century uniform to the strong religious trappings of the event, what was billed as the first inauguration of an elected Russian head of state was starting to look like the latest in a long line of Kremlin coronations.

The event will be on Friday morning when the ailing Russian leader is due to appear in public for the first time in more than a month, taking his oath of office in front of 3,000 Russian and foreign digni-

taries. Nothing is being left to chance for the occasion and organisers are even planning to use aircraft to seed approaching rain clouds in an attempt to ensure a sunny day. What has aroused public

tones, about 400 singers and musicians will perform the *Glory* finale of Glinka's patriotic opera *Ivan Susanin*, or *Life for the Tsar*, while 100 guards of the newly formed Kremlin Regiment will attend

6 Somewhere between the opening of the 1980 Moscow Olympics and the coronation of Nicholas II in 1896

suspicions and media derision is the location of the event, on the Kremlin's Cathedral Square only yards from the Cathedral of the Assumption, where tsars were once crowned.

To add to the regal over-

tones, about 400 singers and musicians will perform the *Glory* finale of Glinka's patriotic opera *Ivan Susanin*, or *Life for the Tsar*, while 100 guards of the newly formed Kremlin Regiment will attend

sonality, said. "For foreigners, the scene will probably look like a Bolshoi Theatre production of *Boris Godunov*... For Russians, it will be exactly what they wanted."

Although organisers have stopped short of a full coronation ceremony, Aleksii II, the Orthodox Patriarch, will present President Yeltsin with a jewel-encrusted gold cross and chain and a silver star, a replacement for the sceptre and orb once presented to Russian monarchs on their accession to the throne.

"This will make the inauguration ceremony especially solemn and will become yet more proof of our country's greatness," Nina Shvova, head of the presidential state awards department, said.

Bonn heads allied resistance to US 'terrorism' sanctions

BY ROGER BOYES AND MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

GERMANY yesterday put itself at the vanguard of European states resisting American pressure to impose sanctions against alleged sponsors of international terrorism such as Iran and Libya.

Klaus Kinkel, the Foreign Minister, emphasised that Europe's "critical dialogue" with Iran was preferable to the American position because it was dangerous to isolate a country of regional importance. "We

think it is more correct to remain in talks with Iran... to work against the things that Iran is accused of," he told German radio.

Herr Kinkel seemed sceptical that there would be a full-blown trade war. The same line was taken by other European governments and companies. French oil industry executives said the sanctions would not apply to them or to their suppliers. "Our reading of the text of the American Bill shows that the sanctions will only apply to new business," said Total, the French oil group, which

has the biggest contract with Iran of any company in the world.

Lamberto Dini, the Italian Foreign Minister, suggested the D'Amato Bill — named after Republican Senator Alfonse D'Amato — was prompted by electoral considerations. "This decision is more than anything else symbolic," he said. "We Europeans know this perfectly well but we can't just sit back and say nothing."

Britain has been less direct in its criticism of the United States. The Bill requires President Clinton to impose sanctions against any

company that invests \$40 million (£26 million) or more a year in oil and gas projects in Iran and Libya.

Both Iran and Libya are hoping to play off Europe against the United States. Both yesterday scornfully dismissed the Bill as "doomed to failure", saying it would only isolate Washington. But oil analysts and diplomats said the two countries would have difficulty attracting vital foreign investment if the sanctions were rigorously enforced.

Iran expects to have a speedy and constructive dialogue with Europe

to promote healthy political and economic ties with all European Union members, said *Iran News*, a newspaper close to the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Libya's state-run news agency said the measure crowns the American policy of following its own selfish interest which has damaged and will further damage the American people's interests and those of its allies.

Now, however, Germany will no doubt come under pressure to show its conciliatory policies towards Iran are paying humanitarian dividends.

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Netanyahu talks of rejected Damascus

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Netanyahu talks offer rejected by Damascus

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

SYRIA rejected with contempt yesterday an offer by Benjamin Netanyahu, the right-wing Israeli Prime Minister, to resume peace talks with Damascus, saying that his proposals lacked substance.

The rejection was issued through the official daily *Tishreen*, a mouthpiece of the Syrian Government.

In an editorial, the newspaper said that Mr Netanyahu wanted first to talk about Israel's security problem in south Lebanon and not about the future of the strategic Golan Heights, captured from Syria during the 1967 war.

"This talk does not mean anything for the making of peace," *Tishreen* said. "It is mere nice words which are baseless. The issue is the resumption of the negotiations but the essence of what the negotiations would deal with."

What kind of negotiations [does] Netanyahu want to resume while he still rejects withdrawal from the Golan and couples this rejection with the expansion of settlements and bringing more Jews to settle in the occupied Syrian lands? The question was a reference to the Israeli Cabinet's decision on Friday to approve an expansion of Jewish settlements in territories seized in 1967, including the Golan, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Tishreen said that Damascus was still committed to the peace process, but it urged Mr Netanyahu to withdraw Israeli troops from occupied Arab land. "Israel's position regarding the peace process in the light of what Netanyahu and other Israeli officials are saying proved that they are not serious and that they are evading the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace," it said.

There was no comment on the matter last night from Mr Netanyahu's office.

An official said that the proposal sent to Syria spelt out Israel's terms for withdrawing its troops from south Lebanon. He said that that would be a first step towards peace with Syria which, with 35,000 troops stationed in the country, is the main foreign power broker in Lebanon. After the

Syrian response, the State Department in Washington said that the United States was trying to arrange new peace negotiations between Israel and Syria, but so far had failed to do so. The State Department spoke after President Hrawi of Lebanon held surprise talks in Damascus on Monday with President Assad of Syria. The two leaders agreed to discuss a common strategy in relations with the Jewish state.

President Assad will visit Egypt today for talks with President Mubarak on the future of the Middle East peace process. Muhammad Mousa, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, said yesterday that the talks would focus on the Israeli Government's decision to lift a freeze on the expansion of Jewish settlements. Mr Mousa said the Egyptian-Syrian talks were of special importance to the Middle East peace process in the light of America's latest efforts to bring about a resumption of negotiations between Israel and Syria. Egypt, which in 1979 became the first Arab country to sign a peace treaty with Israel, is hoping to play a greater mediating role between the Jewish state and other Arab leaders.

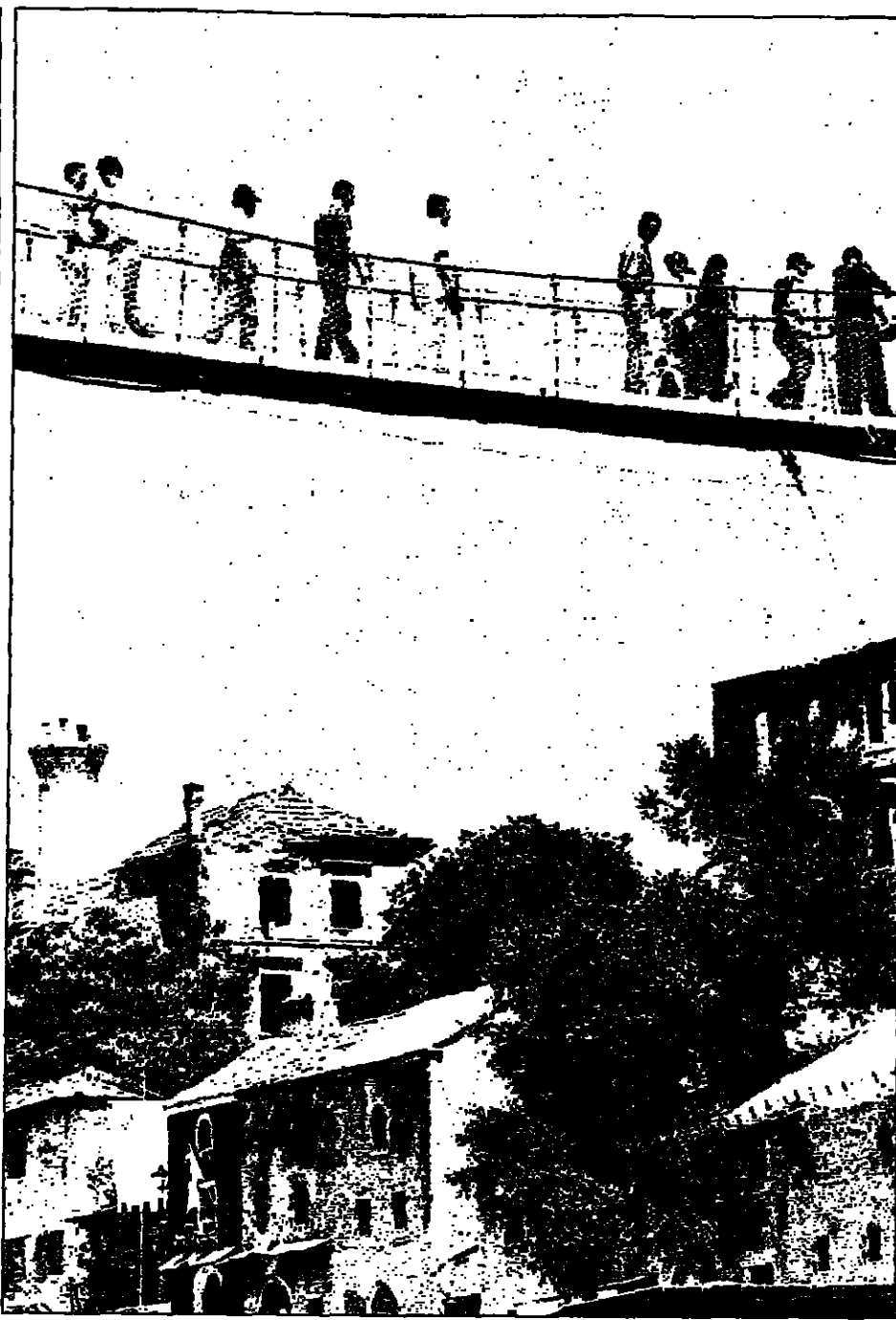
In the meantime, Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian Authority's President, also attacked Israel yesterday over its decision to allow the expansion of Jewish settlements and for its failure to withdraw troops from parts of the West Bank city of Hebron. "We must prepare a comprehensive plan to confront this conspiracy," Mr Arafat said. "It is a conspiracy against me, against the peace process. This means tearing up the agreements between us and them."

Israel has withdrawn troops from the centre of all the main Arab cities on the West Bank except Hebron, where about 400 Jews are settled among 100,000 Palestinians.

The previous Labour Government in Israel promised to withdraw troops from the centre of Hebron, but never implemented the decision after a series of suicide bombings that killed 59 people in February and March.

Rocket attack kills Israeli

Marjayoun, Lebanon: One Israeli soldier was killed and two were wounded when Hezbollah guerrillas attacked their post in south Lebanon, pro-Israeli militia sources said. The guerrillas fired mortars and anti-tank rockets at the Israelis. (Reuters)



Pedestrians cross the suspension bridge linking Mostar's divided communities

Mostar Muslims and Croats pull back from brink

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

MUSLIM and Croat officials, who were caught in a week-long political stalemate that threatened to undermine a key provision of the Dayton peace accord, reached a compromise on the joint governance of Mostar yesterday, narrowly averting a European Union threat to withdraw from the divided city.

After an exhausting all-night negotiating session on Monday that broke up unresolved before reconvening again yesterday, the two sides signed an agreement to recognise the results of Mostar's June 30 elections until the Federal Supreme Court in Bosnia rules whether or not the poll was fair.

Officials involved in the talks characterised the atmosphere as tense and the talks as virulent. "It has been quite difficult and we have had quite a few sleepless nights," said Sir Martin Garrod, the British diplomat who is the EU's special envoy in the city.

Throughout the talks the head of the Mostar branch of the ruling headline Croat HDZ party, Mile Pulić, often referred to his Muslim neighbours as "Chechens" and "Hezbollah". The even-tempered Sir Martin referred to the thugs that roam Mostar's Croat west side as "scum".

The EU, which has spent £70 million and two years trying to unify the city, threatened to pull out because separatist Bosnian Croats declared

the elections fraudulent and boycotted the city council. Both EU deadlines slipped past unmet, but officials, mindful of the devastating precedent a pullout would have set, granted the parties more time to compromise.

The headline Croats, who have made no secret of their desire to create a separate mini-state, pointed to voting irregularities at refugee polling station in Bonn, Germany, where ballots counted exceeded voters by 26. The EU's ombudsman declared the number too small to alter the election outcome, but agreed to give the Federal Supreme Court the final say.

Western diplomats in Bosnia said the real issue was that the Muslims had won a majority on the city council.

If the EU had quit and the election results were not recognised, a dangerous precedent would have been set for Bosnia's general elections on September 14. All parties would have felt they could overturn results with impunity.

Croatia blamed: Croatia was blamed yesterday for failing to make the Krajina region safe for Serb refugees to return (Eve-Anne Prentice writes). The area was stormed by Croatian forces crushing a Serb revolt a year ago, leading to an exodus of 200,000 Croatian Serbs who had settled there centuries before.

Misha Glenny, page 14

Gang declares war on Cape Town vigilantes

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

THE mob murder of a drugs gangster on a Cape Town street has shocked South Africans and highlighted the country's alarming slide towards vigilante justice.

President Mandela condemned the murder by Muslim militants on Sunday night of Rashad Staggie, and Sydney Mufamadi, the Safety and Security Minister, has demanded an explanation from police who watched but did not intervene in the murder.

Photographs showed members of a Muslim vigilante group, People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad), surrounding Staggie's vehicle, pulling him out and setting him alight.

Staggie, his body riddled with bullets, died in full view of journalists and police.

The Muslim group has declared a jihad (holy war) against drugs dealers in the Cape peninsula, raising fears of tit-for-tat violence.

Muhammad Ali "Phantom" Parker, one of 18 wounded in the shootings on Sunday night, has said that, if any Cape Town mosques are burnt down by gangs, retaliatory suicide bombs can be expected. "If they are not going to listen I will pack myself full of explosives and pay somebody a visit," he said from a secret hideout.

Dullah Omar, the Justice Minister, has been urged to hold talks with the Muslim group to defuse the tension. Schools in Cape Town's Muslim

areas stayed shut yesterday and children missed afternoon religious studies. "Many Muslim parents fear reprisals by the drug barons," said Ebrahim Moosa, director of the Centre for Contemporary Islam.

Rashid Staggie, twin brother of the murdered gang boss and co-leader of the gang, vowed yesterday that vengeance will be wreaked on Pagad. "It looks like war, but we didn't proclaim it, Pagad did," he said.

Pagad, an alliance of various community organisations and neighbourhood watches, is relatively new, but reflects what is happening elsewhere in South Africa. Increasingly, black South Africans, frustrated by the failure of police to arrest and put criminals behind bars, have been

taking matters into their own hands. Operating on a voluntary basis, or for money, some groups are loosely connected and come together only in crises while others are highly organised.

In central Johannesburg, a group calling itself the Angry 13 has vowed to clean up the streets. In Durban, the Cleaners track down known criminals and maim them.

In Soweto, Youth Action Against Crime operates from above an office. The burly youths, who include former ANC guerrillas, straighten out criminals at "workshops" where they beat their captives.

One of the leaders said: "The police are discredited, so what else can we do?"

Kenya cuts links to Burundi

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

KENYA yesterday tightened the sanctions noose on Burundi's military Government by closing all communications with the central African country and refusing landing rights to aid flights.

Bujumbura, Burundi's capital, has been hit hard by sanctions imposed by the Organisation of African Unity a week ago. Fuel prices have soared and the price of salt has doubled.

Kenyan officials said yesterday that they were working out ways of restricting the movement of people in and out of the troubled country, where at least 150,000 people have died in ethnic violence since 1993.

Sanctions have been easy to impose on Burundi, all of whose imports and exports have to travel through Kenya or Tanzania. The latter had already closed its borders and cut off air links.

Nairobi's move came as Amnesty International accused the Tutsi army in Burundi of killing 200 people since the July 26 coup.

Megawati to obey summons

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN JAKARTA

INDONESIA'S ousted opposition leader was closeted with political allies at her home south of Jakarta yesterday, contemplating what looks increasingly like a bleak future. She received another summons to an interrogation at police headquarters as the Government's drive to sideline her intensified.

Later an aide said Megawati Sukarnoputri would obey the summons to appear on Friday in connection with the recent anti-government rioting here.

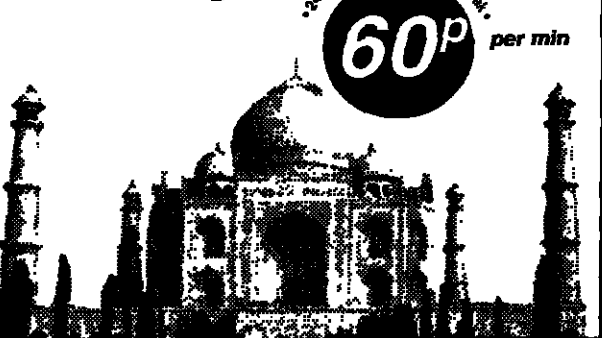
Miss Megawati, who has not appeared publicly for nearly two weeks, seems to have been overwhelmed by the uncompromising government retaliation to her challenge, one of the most serious in President Suharto's 30 years of rule.

Since the Jakarta riots she has stayed at home, and the capital is back to normal. Her allies say her approach is part of a long-term strategy: it is more probably a sign of submission to the enormous pressures being applied to her.

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Zip into the locker-room look

The Summer of Sport isn't over yet. With perfect timing the American designer and astute businessman Ralph Lauren is promoting his latest range of beauty products, Polo Sport Woman. Advertisements for his body products and fragrance speak of "fitness as the ultimate beauty tool", and champion a "healthy-looking glow".

Fashion has a habit of seizing the moment and right now you can't move for someone trying to hop, step or jump into the record books. Inevitably then, along with the clever marketing of Lauren and his

"skin fitness line" there is a renewed interest in sporty-looking clean-cut clothes which are clear winners in the style stakes.

However, whereas previously the aim of pulling on a pair of Lycra leggings or slipping on a towelling sweatband (think Jamie Lee Curtis in *Perfect*) was to give the impression that you were either just coming from or jogging to the gym, the latest raid on the locker room appears a lot less obvious. The mood is relaxed without being overtly athletic, more slow-down than go-faster. Just do it, but take your time about it.

This time it's all in the styling. No one should wear sports clothing top to toe unless they are competing in a different arena. Instead choose pieces to suit — best of all are hooded jackets in fleecy sweat-shirting or slithery nylon, sometimes quilted, always zipped. Hooded sweat-tops and clingy Lycra T-shirts provide easy options in classic navy, black, red, yellow and white. Straight-to-the-point logos like Gap's SPORT line or Nike's state-of-the-art tick design are favourite. Underneath try a sports bra for added comfort and a smooth line — Champion has a Jogbra. Berle offers the ShockAbsorber, while Triumph fitted the British Olympic team with its sports bras.

The biggest difference is what to wear with these sporty separates. Wear a cotton-mesh numbered baseball vest by DKNY, but team it with a long stretch velvet or washed silk skirt instead of a pair of sports shorts to emphasise the new season's prevailing trend for long and



Cool girls are teaming the sportiest of separates with a distinctively laid-back style

lean. Or pull on a pair of wide-legged pants in stretch towelling. Then there are the shoes. Instead of colourful Adidas Galaxy or Nike Air Total Max trainers the fashionable set are loafing around in another American import: driving

shoes. The slip-on moccasin with its trademark rubber-studded sole and heel guard comes in everything from leather to shiny moc-croc or matt suede. They also vary considerably in price. J.P. Todds and Cole-Haas are top of the range, the Williams and Benetton of driving shoes.

To take the look from top to toe a scraped-back hairdo, or what the Americans are calling the "up-do", is a must. It's an easy style to perfect because its success depends on it looking do-it-yourself. International hairstylist Orlando Pita recently told *American Vogue*: "It looks best if you carelessly pin it up yourself." Reminiscent of the girl gymnasts from Russia and Romania, the hair is pulled back from the face and either pinned, knotted or braided at the back of the head. You can use minimal products to achieve the look — Kiehl's Hair Conditioning and Grooming Aid or Charles Worthington's Seriously Shiny Silkening Serum plus a dab of John Frieda Hair Wax and

Shine. Should the urge take you when no products are at hand, one fashion editor created the same style at a swanky designer dinner in New York with a little sugar water and a lot of attitude.

Remember this is not a chic French pleat — the finished result should look anything but. At the shows of Dolce & Gabbana, Istante and Karl Lagerfeld, the ends were tweaked into sprouting tufts, while Jil Sander and Prada favoured twisted buns sometimes held in place with a slim barrette. The ultimate logo accessory of the season has to be the gold

barrette used at the Chanel show. Instead of a tan, go for a healthy glow. A natural-looking blush can be achieved with a tube of Origins Pinch Your Cheeks.

The latest laid-back look, which several of the front row have already been sporting, is straight-forward white denim jeans. Work the look into autumn by buying them extra long so that they will practically cover a high-heeled shoe, then tuck in a slinky jersey shirt unbuttoned to the waist just like Lauren Hutton and Karen Black in the Seventies, and think Gloria Vanderbilt Glorious.



ABOVE: Yellow nylon fitted quilted jacket, £73, Sisley (0171-929 9259). Cream towelling stretch trousers, £29; towelling beanie hat, £9 from a selection, Muji, 26 Great Marlborough Street, W1; 39-41 Shelton Street, WC2, 157 Kensington High Street, W8

LEFT: Navy stretch cotton hooded top, £28, Gap, branches nationwide (0171-518 6300). Navy bias cut skirt, £100, Fenn Wright & Manson, Fenwick's, New Bond Street, W1; Jane & Dada, 20-21 St Christophers Place, W1; Kendals, Deansgate, Manchester

FAR LEFT: White nylon zip front hooded jacket, £155; navy stretch sleeveless R.L. logo top, Polo Sport by Ralph Lauren, 143 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-491 4967). Black velvet skirt, £150, Fenn Wright & Manson, as before.

White leather loafers, £179, J.P. Todds, Harrods, SW1

FAR LEFT, BELOW: Black zip front hooded top, £41, Sisley, as before. White stretch sleeveless R.L. logo top, £75, Polo Sport by Ralph Lauren, as before

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The Romantics invested Nature with a power that reflected man's spiritual need for something greater than himself

Why we must keep Antarctica a true wilderness

SCIENTISTS from all over the world are meeting in Cambridge this week as Britain hosts an international conference on Antarctica. The future of one of the world's last great wildernesses is being debated.

The vast and wondrous continent of Antarctica with its shadowed mountains and stretching plains of ice constitutes one tenth of the land mass of the planet. The continent drifted into polar isolation long before warm-blooded creatures first emerged, and there are no mammals living on its frozen wastes. Its largest true land animal is probably a millimetre-long spider-like mite. There are no trees there, just virecent wefts of algae floating in temporary summer streams and lichens clinging to wind-blasted rock. The desolate landscapes of dry valleys are broken only by the weird shapes of ventifacts, stones sculpted by millions of years of winds.

Time flows without punctuation. Days slide into lucent nights, mornings arrive without a sunrise. Polar cold dissolves the distinction between land and sea. Colour, scale and perspective dissolve in the vast ice cap which becomes in its very desolation a metaphor for wilderness itself.

During the rationalist era of the 18th century, wildernesses were seen as threatening and fearful



Rachel Campbell-Johnston

places, raw weals on the land unhealed by the order and symmetry of civilisation. In *A Journey to the Western Islands*, Samuel Johnson described his travels into "the bosom of the highlands" north of Fort Augustus. "An eye accustomed to flowery pastures and waving harvests is astonished and repelled by this wide extent of

hopeless sterility," he wrote. To the rationalist view, the chaos of nature represented a dangerous and corrupting force.

But by the end of the century a new Romantic vision had seeped into the English consciousness. Unshackling the spontaneity of the overflowing heart, the Romantics invested the wilderness with a power that responded to and reflected man's deepest spiritual and emotional needs for something greater than himself.

It was to the awesome vastness of the icy wastes that many of the Romantics turned for inspiration. Coleridge explored the bleakness of a "land of mist and snow" in *The Ancient Mariner*. Shelley salutes the constant, yet coldly indifferent power of Mont Blanc. It is this vision that has shaped our 20th-century imagination.

Throughout the 20th century we have thrilled to tales of Antarctic expeditions, of British explorers such as Scott and Shackleton. Perhaps it is the fact that Scott

failed to return that created the indestructible splendour of myth.

Fifteen years ago I was working in the Falkland Islands and along with the other shepherds I would return home from the pastures along the South Atlantic coast. "The reason I love living here most," one of the men once told me, "is that I can look out over the ocean and know that there is nothing between me and Antarctica." But later that year he was offered a job on an icebreaker, travelling to the bases of the British Antarctic Survey. He didn't take it. "I think it is best in the imagination," he said.

In an increasingly industrialised world, the desolate savagery of the wilderness became a symbol of the chaos that man yearned for to frame his order and give it content and meaning. What would the world be, once bereft of wild places, of wilderness? On let them be left.

cried the Jesuit poet, Gerard Manley Hopkins. The fervour of his plea echoes modern society's call for a place in which it can directly confront the greatness of some transcendent power.

The wilderness traditionally has been portrayed as a place of soul-searching. In the Old Testament the Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years. Christ fasted in the wilderness for 40 days and 40 nights.

In the primal landscape of Antarctica, humanity is confronted with the absolutes that philosophy has always striven to encompass. "One feels a disinclination to perform even the small necessities of life," wrote Shackleton. "One only feels in a fit state to lie in one's bag and idly ponder." The sheer barren desolation presents a radical negation by which, paradoxically, human reality is somehow revealed.

The world's wild places are no longer, as Johnson described

them, "incapable of usefulness". Yet we have become too careless of them. From Patagonia to northern Alaska, from tropical Australia to Lake Baikal, the world bears the harsh imprint of human exploitation of natural resources. The base camp of Everest is strewn with rubbish. Even in our own country, cagouled hordes trample and destroy those moody tracts of land north of upper Teesdale, which are one of the last designated wildernesses in Europe. And, as bitter experience has taught us, once an environment has been destroyed and interfered with, it is difficult, often impossible to restore it.

Already development has reached Antarctica. Around the research bases landforms are altered by bulldozing and blasting, water courses are diverted and movement of people obliterates the vegetation. Toxic wastes form pools amid the derelict machinery of abandoned habitations.

Antarctica is unique in that it is

the only continent on our planet that has never harboured and nourished a civilisation. Unlike the rainforests, we have no precedent to tell us how to live in harmony with its ecosystem. Yet as a continent whose coldness acts in counterpoint to the equatorial tropics, it is a critical part of an integrated global climate. Man cannot afford to meddle with it further.

Commercially orientated mineral activities would require the construction of workshops, accommodation and storage buildings, wharves for ships and hardrock runways for aircraft. They would have a deep impact which would deny us for ever the opportunity for research on an undisturbed ecosystem.

The despoliation of Antarctica would signal the bankruptcy of our technological society in finding creative solutions to global

problems. But perhaps even more importantly it would be the shattering of one of our last emotional and imaginative icons.

There has long been a campaign calling for the designation of Antarctica as a world park. We must take responsibility for this continent at a time when it has become most vulnerable to change from without. The Antarctic Treaty, first signed in 1959, declared the continent a demilitarised zone which should be preserved for scientific research. It has been highly successful and should continue to be extended indefinitely. Commercial mining for minerals and oils should be banned. Antarctica has the richest summer seas in the world. Fisheries should be closely monitored. Careful controls should also be made on the growth of tourism to the continent. In our modern age, the protection of Antarctica is perhaps the best answer we can make to the call of the wild.

On the day the mails stopped, the perils of do-it-yourself deliveries

THIS is a story of fear, loathing and privatisation. It goes to show that whatever God intended, he never envisaged a multi-option postal delivery service. At least not in Edinburgh.

It began with yesterday's postal strike in the city and the Government's announcement that it was ending the Royal Mail's monopoly. This, I

Playing the last post in Edinburgh

thought, was an opportunity not to be missed. As a one-person business myself I am deeply imbued with the enter-

prise culture and alert to its opportunities. I therefore determined to mount my own first-class delivery service. A small clutch of vital letters — an unpaid parking fine just within its time limit, a thank-you letter six weeks late and written in a flush of guilt, an article whose deadline was beginning to show signs of stress — demanded immediate action. I jumped into the car and headed off towards postal areas whose codes indicated proximity. That was an error. To assume that EH8 is right next to EH9 is entirely to misunderstand the system.

My second mistake was to forget that Edinburgh has declared war on the motorist. On Monday a new traffic plan was introduced, designed to drive cars off the road. It is called Moving Forward. Seeing Red might be more appropriate. The idea is to encourage traffic, for no very obvious reason, to go westwards down Princes Street, Edinburgh's main thoroughfare, but not eastwards.

IT BLOCKS off the streets you want to turn into, and diverts you into places you never knew existed. It is designed with cyclists in mind in a city which, with its vertiginous hills, almost certainly qualifies as the non-cycling centre of Europe. It makes its intentions clear in a leaflet which mentions buses, taxis, bicycles and pedestrians, but, ominously, cannot bring itself to refer to cars. It calls them "other vehicles".

For the one-man postal delivery service, this was bad news. Preparing to turn left into Princes Street I noticed that the road surface in South St Andrew Street had turned green. I felt uneasy about this, but persevered, only to find a traffic warden barring my way. He pointed out that only buses, taxis and cycles were now permitted. A testy dialogue ensued, in which I experienced the first symp-

ptoms of road rage, and he explained how I was meant to cross the North Bridge by going in the opposite direction.

I reversed, joined an unwelcome traffic stream which took me inexorably towards the one place I knew I must avoid — the Royal Mile, a sort of vehicular purgatory where cars await until their sins are redeemed, and the traffic lights show only red or amber.

SOME hours later I found myself gingerly crossing the North Bridge, but this time heading north. By now chastened, I hesitated about turning back into Princes Street, flinching instinctively as a policeman gestured at me. But no, he was smiling, waving me on down a virtually traffic-free road. I was going west, and I had therefore passed some sort of Bunyan-like test. I was no longer Lord Haigood. I was Mr. Valiant-for-Truth, heading for the Celestial City.

Unfortunately, I was travelling in completely the wrong direction. My home, my wife, family and loved ones were all away to my right, in the land that lies beyond George Street. Once I could have driven there. But that was yesterday. Today, beaming traffic wardens were waving me on towards the Lothian Road and Shandwick Place, and who knows what beyond. Glasgow perhaps. I watched as once familiar streets flashed past, now grimly barred, their barriers open only to mythical cyclists.

Suddenly, when all seemed lost, a street opened up to the right. Guiltily I turned into it, and found myself, miraculously, heading back where I wanted to go. Here was the appropriately named Hope Street. Now, just one more turn, and — but no, despairingly, the top of Dublin Street was barred. I must travel on.

Ahead, a sign indicated Berwick-on-Tweed. I pulled up and began to sob silently, tears dripping onto my little pile of letters. Looking up, I spotted a familiar red object. I stumbled out, and thrust the letters into the pillar-box. Then I headed for the A1 and freedom.



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Alan Coren



■ Our performance in the Mediterranean may explain our performance in Atlanta

I have been thinking about all this, and I am ready to conclude that Britain's pitiable inability to get even halfway up the minor foothills of Olympus might have not a little to do with the decline of the wheel.

Where I am ready to conclude this is on the same French beach on which you and I convened a fortnight ago in the Curious Case of the Twelve French Toes — and may I take this opportunity to thank all who wrote in to tell me that the French for toe is "doigt de pied", as I ought to have guessed, given the poverty of their vocabulary, though "foot-fingers" is pretty gross even for them, summing up as it does the memory of those Brooke Bond chimpanzees stirring their tea with their feet — for I have returned to complete my holiday, and what I have returned to is a triumphant France celebrating its fifth place in a medals table in which Britain ended up a dozen places below Kazakhstan.

I have thus been giving the matter much seaside reflection, in the hope of arriving at an explanation. I even looked, now that I know the word, for my polypodal friend, to ask him whether 12-toed Frenchmen were common and, if so, whether this would explain their athletic success, 20 per cent extra grip is not to be sneezed at, but he was no longer around; so I was left to lie here alone for the past couple of days, turning over in my mind all those fraught speculations about our failure too familiar to require further rehearsal, without, until this morning, spotting that I was staring one very plausible answer in, quite literally, the face.

The face was lying a yard or so from mine, fat, red, shiny, its eyes shut in sleep, its lips rippling, its nostrils fluting, as the belly below it rose up and down — but even when down, hid the beach beyond. What was on the beach beyond were three of the face's friends, similarly zonked: four Englishmen, each in his early twenties, who, had each not also been three stone overweight, might have been (I come right down to it) a relay team. But these faces weren't about to run anywhere: I had seen these faces before, when I arrived at the beach, and they had been sitting in the beach café, stuffing themselves with Full English Breakfasts, as advertised on the blackboard outside, and washing them down, moreover, with litres of lager to fuel them for the energetic ten-metre hobble to that spot on the sand where they could fall down, pass out, and turn scarlet.

The French, on the other hand, were running everywhere. The French first jog the five kilometres to the beach from wherever they have been doing their dawn aerobics, they next do their hundred push-ups, and after that they sprint down the sand and butterfly halfway to Africa before backstroking back to play two hours of volleyball. They do not do this on a Full English Breakfast, they do not even do it on a Full French Breakfast, they do it on a glass of carrot juice; and when it is noon they do not eat a Full French Lunch any more, they eat celery as they watch fat baked Englishmen wake up and struggle back into the beach café for the two kilos of cholesterol and the two bottles of fermented calories necessary to ensure an afternoon's uninterrupted kip.

And it suddenly dawned upon me today, as I stared in the blistering face beside me, that I had stared in it all over the Mediterranean, in Spain, in Italy, in Greece, in Portugal, in Turkey, in Morocco, in Tunisia, on all the myriad islands in between, and what it was was the face of an Englishman, after umpteen chilly centuries, had discovered the sun, and having discovered it, wanted only to eat and drink everything under it, and then crawl out on all fours and broil in it.

It was not ever thus. Until 1957, everybody went to Clacton and Blackpool, where they had to run about in the street just to stave off frostbite, sustaining themselves on whelks and winkles, the healthiest food there is, and slugging them down with nourishing milk stout. Tripe-white we may have been, but we were wily, then, with not a man-jack among us who couldn't run the mile of Southend Pier in four minutes, and that in overcoats and wellies. But in 1957, the first package tour flew off to Torremolinos, where it was too hot even for beach cricket.

Which may, indeed, also tell us something about our middle-order betting. Let me just lie here in the sun for a bit and think about that.

Evan Davis says the financial muscle of the State leads to exploitative, demoralised provision

Public sector services, high street standards

This week has seen a sudden and seductive reassertion of the merits of state spending and government intervention. Just when you thought the world had fallen for the idea that private companies are the best vehicle for delivering anything, the public sector has fought back.

It's not just Juan Antonio Samaranch and his apparent disenchantment with the private sector's organisation of the Atlanta Olympics and his reported desire for municipal or government involvement in future events. A recent article in the National Institute of Economic and Social Research's quarterly review has challenged the conventional wisdom, and stirred up a fresh debate on that old topic — which is better, public or private? The backlash against private services has been most articulately expressed in the columns of this newspaper, by Anatole Kaletsky.

The argument now being offered is that unlike private companies, government has unique purchasing muscle, which it can use to limit spending on services, so costs do not escalate; to buy things cheaply, and also to borrow money at low interest rates, without, for example, paying generous profits to shareholders. To quote Kaletsky, these factors "are likely to outweigh by far the possible efficiencies that might be achieved by introducing better systems of management accounting, tighter financial control and more competition". In fact, he says, "commercialising public services will drive up the costs".

Now I am not sure whether Messrs Samaranch and Kaletsky themselves use government services — or if they do, whether they use that superior variety available only in richer suburban areas. However, their defence of the public sector may seem reassuring to the many people who have long suspected that the private sector revolution has gone too far, but were unable to say why.

Before traditional Labour supporters pin enlarged copies of Kaletsky's article onto their bedroom walls, however, they should examine his arguments more closely.

This new defence of the traditional model of public delivery — with services paid for by taxation and delivered by non-profit-making and non-competing public-sector organisations — is not based on any conception of social justice. Far from it. It is based on the fact that government can exploit nurses by paying them too little — to the advantage of the taxpayer — and can squeeze spending on schools and hospitals year after year, resisting upward pressure on costs.

If the argument were right, the fact that it was offensive to traditional

supporters of the public sector would not really matter. But unfortunately, it isn't. Big government can make economies, essentially by ripping off public suppliers, but it pays an inevitable price in doing so. It ends up with a state structure characterised by poorly motivated staff; organisations that have no inbuilt incentives to reward entrepreneurial or innovative behaviour, and which lack the pressures of takeover, bankruptcy, management change or even competition for custom.

As a result, public services are inflexible and slow to adapt. Examples abound; my current favourite is the Overseas Development Administration, which, incredibly, gives foreign assistance to Hong Kong and Singapore, even though both countries are now generally reckoned to be richer than we are ourselves. Indeed, credible academic evidence provides a case that the aid budget has almost no discernible effect on helping the vulnerable in poor countries.

Public services are also unresponsive to consumer demand. It has always seemed perverse that Camden council, for example, should choose to shut three-

quarters of its public swimming-pools on Bank Holidays. (I gather this policy is now being reviewed by the private leisure company that has taken over the contract for running the facilities.)

No one really benefits from the stagnant nature of the State, but the most important point to remember is that those who suffer most from the mediocre quality of public services are the poor whom the services are primarily designed to help. They, after all, cannot shop for services elsewhere, nor do they get the choicest cuts available.

So the last thing that supporters of traditional state services need now is to be encouraged into complacency. If anything, the reverse. We need a Labour Party which is keen above all to make public services as good as Marks & Spencer's service. Forget the sophisticated reasoning which says that M&S has to borrow a bit more expensively, and cannot exploit its suppliers as effectively as a sovereign government; if our schools were as good as our shops, we would be a more successful nation.

And for any party wanting to position itself as a public-sector reform party, it is

the commercial mechanisms that produce a Marks & Spencer which need to be studied. The difference between the private sector and the public sector is not that one has 10 per cent more efficient management, or that the other has muscle to pay suppliers less. Or even that private businessmen are magically better (or worse) at organising international sporting events than municipal appointees.

No, the difference is in the far more significant and far longer-term ways that the commercial forces manifest themselves. It is that bad suppliers — that the wall, and good ones flourish — that when the time is right, M&S can grow and Woolworths shrink. New ideas are rewarded and experimentation encouraged. All in all, it's just the opposite of the forces that one observes operating over time in the public sector.

Of course, to operate commercial forces one has to pay commercial rates — for entrepreneurship, for motivated staff, for risk-taking investors. But like St Michael's chicken Kiev, it will turn out to be well worth the price.

So beware of the new arguments on offer. The challenge is to redesign the public sector, introducing pressures of a commercial kind for good performance, while preserving the desired elements of social justice. It is not an easy task. But in the great debate on how to run health, education, or the Olympic Games, this is not time to look backwards.

The author is visiting research fellow at the Social Market Foundation.

Tudjman the terrible

Misha Glenny says the Croatian leader has flourished by military might and is toying with the world community

European diplomats can wipe the sweat off their brows, after finally securing an agreement between the Bosnian Croats and Muslims in Mostar yesterday. On Monday, the EU was facing ignominious defeat in the capital of western Herzegovina. Tired officials at the US State Department were also working overtime to ensure that the Croatian President, Franjo Tudjman, fulfilled the assurances he offered President Clinton that the recalcitrant Bosnian Croats would be brought to heel.

And what was President Tudjman up to on Monday? Doing what the former Yugoslav Army general likes best: celebrating the regional might of the Croatian Army on the first anniversary of the crushing defeat it inflicted on rebel Serbs in the Krajina. The significance of this demonstration of Croatian military prowess will not have been lost on the Bosnian Muslims in eastern Mostar and Sarajevo.

Whatever finally emerges from the agreement reached yesterday will be of secondary importance to the Croatian Army's dominance in the western half of the former Yugoslavia. When the Serbs threatened to establish control over large parts of Croatia and Bosnia by military means, the United States encouraged the build-up of Croatia's Army to act as a counterweight against the Serbs. Now that the Croats threaten to undermine the fragile peace negotiations in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Americans and the EU are at a loss to know how to curb Croatian power.

The Bosnian Croats have everyone over a barrel in Mostar. They will doubtless find many ways to hinder the creation of a unified city, and in the end the two years of expensive and exhausting EU administration of Mostar is likely to come tumbling down. This would represent a major blow to Europe's foreign policy prestige, which has already sustained several large bruises in the former Yugoslavia.

For a change, however, the United States is not sniggering with Schadenfreude at this latest European debacle in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Mostar is the foundation of a complex of illusory basement structure, known as the Bosnian Federation, designed by the American Vice-President, Al Gore, and the German Foreign Minister, Klaus Kinkel. Upon this the flamboyant Richard Holbrooke built his elaborate baroque facade at Dayton, which has in turn lent a certain foreign policy majesty to President Clinton's presidential campaign.

In Brussels and Washington, it

has now become an article of faith that if Mostar cracks and separates irreversibly, then the Dayton agreement will end up rather like eastern Mostar, a heap of rubble. Such a shambles would look very bad on President Clinton's CV as he approaches the battle for re-election to the White House. Clinton took a big risk when he sent American troops to Bosnia, not because they were in danger of being killed but because instead of putting the Bosnian Humpty-Dumpty back together again, the Nato operation would merely facilitate a partition of the country, which is what the architects of the Dayton agreement claimed they wanted to prevent.

For the agreement contains two fatal contradictions. Notwithstanding all the flowery rhetoric of human rights, civil liberties and unitary institutions, it permits the permanent presence of three armies in this small state, each associated with a different national group. When Nato finally leaves Bosnia, these three forces will be the ultimate source of authority in the country, and they are bound to reinforce the country's division. Elections, be they in Mostar or countrywide, will not alter this grim reality.

Secondly, there is the Bosnian Federation itself, established by the Americans and Germans as a tactical alliance between Muslims and Croats in March 1994. As everybody acknowledges, the Federation exists only on paper. Not one of the many institutions designed to shore it up functions in any meaningful sense. It is very difficult to understand how the idealistic constitutional provisions of Dayton can work if its presumed core, the Federation, is a fiction.

Despite the clouds over Mostar, senior State Department officials remain doggedly optimistic that President Tudjman is committed to reining in the Bosnian Croats, who are regarded by most diplomats as a bunch of gangsters. Yet in the past few weeks the Croatian President has repeatedly hit out against the pressure being brought to bear by the Europeans on Croatia because of its Bosnia policy, saying that Croatia will never betray the interests of the Bosnian Croats. He has been more circumspect when it comes to the Americans, despite growing criticism in Washington of his autocratic rule in Croatia itself.

In his domestic policy, there is little to differentiate Tudjman's style from his Serbian counterpart, Slobodan Milosevic. He closes down newspapers or television programmes which offend him. He shields indicted war criminals.



He manipulates the electoral process — as the long-running dispute between his party and the opposition over control of Zagreb's municipal council has demonstrated. His privatisation policy has succeeded in concentrating vast economic power in the hands of a small oligarchy, while the political and commercial influence of his children evokes the ugly ghosts of regional ruling dynasties from the recent communist past.

At the beginning of the Yugoslav crisis, President Tudjman was regarded as a slightly bizarre caricature, given to hysterical outbursts and enamoured of a curious Habsburgian and Titoist mixture of heraldic pomp. Few observers considered him a match for the Machiavellian skills of the apparently more

bloodthirsty Milosevic. But behind this comic veil is hidden the brain of an extremely astute political fox, who has not only outmanoeuvred Milosevic and the Bosnian Muslim leadership, but has led the international community a merry dance.

This has been Tudjman's real trump. From early on in the conflict, he understood that for Croatia to gain independence from Yugoslavia and to impose its solution on Bosnia-Herzegovina, the country required powerful international backers. First Germany and then the United States were prepared to offer their support. During 1993 and early 1994, Germany shielded Croatia from the threat of sanctions when regular Croatian troops were involved in the war against the Mus-

lims. Towards the end of 1993, Croatia's Defence Minister, Gojko Susak, the Ottawa pizza-parlour owner who hails from Herzegovina, developed a close personal relationship with the American Secretary of Defence, William Perry. Increasingly, the Clinton Administration felt that the only way to defeat the Bosnian Serbs was to offer practical support to the Croats. Whether the Americans realised it or not, this implied betraying the Bosnian Muslims — and the Mostar crisis is the most bitter fruit of this policy.

In private conversation with American policymakers, President Tudjman claims that he has difficulty controlling the granite-headed mafiosi in Mostar and western Herzegovina, rather as President Milosevic maintains that he no longer yields much influence over Radovan Karadzic. This may be true. But in contrast to the Serbian set-up, the influence of the Herzegovina lobby, as it is known, has its tentacles deep into the body politic of Croatia proper. Its greatest symbol and defender is Gojko Susak, the Mr Hyde of Tudjman's party. Dr Jekyll is represented by Mate Granic, the Foreign Minister, whose efforts to patch up Croatia's tatty image abroad is regularly undermined by the Herzegovina hardliners.

But while Tudjman makes theatrical attempts to reconcile the two wings of his party, his policy for Bosnia continues apace. This would see the country divided and the Bosnian Muslims absolutely dependent on Croatia, with the status of economic vassals.

And there is little that the international community can do about all this. If it were to punish Croatia with sanctions (frankly a distant possibility), then Tudjman could allow the Dayton agreement to dissolve into renewed war. If it does nothing, the partition will proceed apace, exacerbated by the increasingly farcical prospect of Bosnia-wide elections. Serbia and Croatia want the same thing in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and now that there is no significant Serbian minority in Croatia, nothing can stop their co-operation.

There is one difference between the two. For its crimes, Serbia has suffered several years of economic sanctions and still enjoys a general status of international pariah. Croatia's reputation, by contrast, has not been so tarnished, despite the striking similarities between Tudjman and Milosevic. Hats off to President Tudjman. He has waged war against democracy, a minority and a neighbouring state, and still gets invited to the opening ceremony of the Holocaust Museum in Washington. Who says you can't have your cake and eat it?

A new edition of Misha Glenny's book *The Fall of Yugoslavia* will appear in September. Simon Jenkins is on holiday.

Dublin or quits

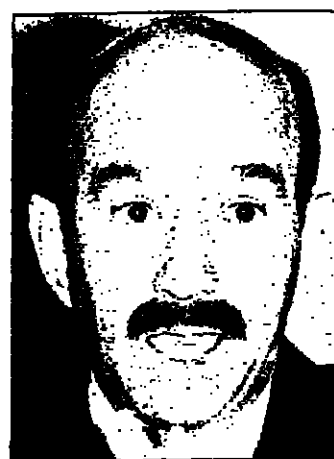
DUBLIN's leading political refugee has broken cover. Carlos Salinas de Gortari, the disgraced former President of Mexico, has been living in the city for the past five months, but has only just begun to appear openly walking the streets.

President of Mexico until November 1994, Salinas has become something of a political Elvis since disappearing from public view in March last year. He was held largely responsible for Mexico's economy going from bad to downright disastrous, which resulted in America bailing it out to the tune of billions of dollars.

There were reported sightings of him as far afield as Cuba, Canada and Costa Rica, and reporters have spent months trying to find him.

He said he would remain in Ireland until he feels it "convenient" to return to his home country, where for many he has become a symbol of corruption.

In an interview with *The Irish Times* yesterday, Salinas said he was a keen follower of Northern Irish politics.



Salinas de Gortari

He now intends to stay in Dublin. He said time was needed to get a "proper perspective" on his failed economic policies.

■ Being Secretary of State for Transport should have its perks, but for Sir George Young not even his daughter's wedding could make the trains work. Guests

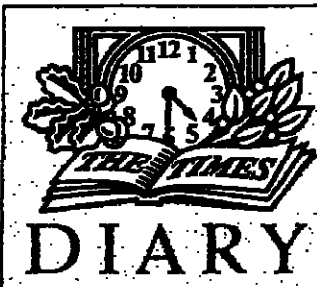
invited to Young's house in Cookham, Berkshire, received a note explaining that usually a train went from Maidenhead to Paddington, but because of engineering problems, it was not working. A bus was running instead.

Sound bites

SANDWICH connoisseurs in Manhattan are in pickle-dropping mood after a visit by Bob Dole to the Stage Deli, one of New York's legendary lunchspots. The whole point of American sandwiches is that you need both hands to eat them — and still the stuffing spills out. Yet there was Dole, who has the use of only one hand, photographed gnawing his way through the Stage Deli's past-tram on rye special.

Restaurant *News America*, a leading trade paper, asked the terrible question: is the Stage Deli getting stingy with its helpings? The Stage's manager says he made Dole a child's portion "so as not to embarrass the guy".

■ Our search for sports at which Britain might succeed at the next Olympics brings some acid responses. Mr K. Samant of Hampstead,



north London, offers "whingeing — gold — and finding fault with others". Tiens.

Sproat sprint

TO HEAR Iain Sproat, the Minister for Sport, wheezing out his plans for Britain's sporting rebirth on the radio yesterday, it seemed time to recommend a workout. At the moment, he likes to watch rugby and cricket and to go for walks. What he needs are good blood-pumping activities compatible with a political life.

The diary suggests: 1. The Colin Moynihan clean and jerk: grasp the diminutive former Minister for Sport by the neck and ankles and thrust him clean above

the head and hold for a few seconds. Ignore any squirming or claims to the contrary.

2. Cochie-Cochie Coe: tease Seb Coe for nothing in particular then sprint to avoid the tantrum. Guaranteed to work up a sweat.

3. The Chicken Run: perhaps not such a good idea for Sproat. In 1983, he abandoned his seat in Aberdeen South, which he had held for 13 years, in favour of what he hoped would be the safer Ruxburgh and Berwickshire. He duly lost and



"It's good to have a varied diet"

was out of Parliament until 1992, when he won Harwich.

Bumpy ride

YESTERDAY saw a chesty blonde stroll into Christopher's restaurant in Covent Garden wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with the slogan: "Redwood '96". A government minister at a nearby table pondered whether, like the Rolling Stones, Redwood had produced a tour T-shirt for his recent trip to America.

Sadly no. The T-shirt belonged to a jumpy theatrical agent called Saskia, who bought it in Hampstead, and asked whimsically: "Well hasn't everyone bought a T-shirt with a slogan that makes you go 'hmmmm'? She is not a fan of John Redwood."

But the possibilities are not lost on Hywel Williams, the Tiro to Redwood's Cicero. "An interesting franchising opportunity for the Conservative 2000 Foundation," he muses. "We should do a limited edition, perhaps signed by the director and myself."

■ Emily Mortimer, the actress currently earning comparisons to Audrey Hepburn with her performance in *The Lights at the Royal*



Emily: mustard cure

Court, discusses Russian chemists in the latest issue of *Harpers & Queen*. "For blisters I was given green plasters that I was told to stick on my feet, out of which an antiseptic seeps. The other oddity I bought in Russia was mustard, attached to bits of paper. When you have a cold, you lay them on your chest and inhale like Vick."

P.H.S



DOWN THE TUBE

For London's sake, the Underground strikers must not win

Millions of commuters, tourists and ordinary travellers will again today suffer the weekly misery of fighting for a place on overcrowded mainline trains in and out of London, crawling through traffic jams or trudging long distances on foot across the beleaguered city. The latest one-day strike by London Underground drivers will stoke public anger against the strikers. Despite intensive talks between management negotiators and leaders of the RMT and Aslef unions — whose pleasure at inflicting pain smacks of industrial sadism — the dispute shows no sign of resolution. To those outside the capital the dispute may seem irrelevant, but vital issues are at stake. The outcome matters not only to Londoners, but to every city attempting to improve its infrastructure.

This dispute is not really about money. Nor is it about flexible rostering, though that is the aggrieved mantra repeated in every doorstep interview. It is about the right of management to manage and the refusal of unions to see their powers eroded. The point at issue is whether London Underground can demand, as the price of a pay rise, that unions surrender their traditional right to organise the holiday roster. As is obvious to any traveller, the summer season brings millions of extra visitors to the capital. The Underground needs to run extra trains, not to cancel capacity because hundreds of drivers are on holiday.

Satisfying the market is the most elementary duty of any manager in any industry. This is the reason why London Underground managers must not concede the unions' demands. For the strike comes at a time when they are showing considerable success in improving one of the world's largest, oldest and most complex public transport networks. Seven years ago the London Underground, long starved of investment, was in a parlous state, the butt of public discontent. Breakdowns were

common, morale low, equipment and rolling stock dangerously antiquated. The boom of the late Eighties only added to the woes of an overstretched system. More than any other factor, the creeping paralysis in public transport tarnished London's attraction as a world business centre.

Since then, the Underground has made quiet progress. Management has improved information systems, repaired stations, increased efficiency and mapped out a long-term programme of expansion, with new lines and new services. Passengers seem to have responded to the improved services with a greater willingness to use the tube. Last year there were 784 million passenger journeys on the Underground, a 3 per cent increase over 1994 and is now approaching its previous record. Revenue was up and unit costs were down. Over the next decade, the system promises a steadily decreasing need for public subsidy.

The Underground's success has lessons for every big city. It is a publicly run and publicly funded system, and will remain so for the foreseeable future — its complexity and shared infrastructure appear to make privatisation impractical in the foreseeable future. The management has worked within the vagaries of government policy and Treasury capital limits.

The pay-off from public transport investment is hard to show on a municipal balance sheet: nor can the cost of traffic chaos be easily quantified. But all cities — among them Manchester, Newcastle and Sheffield — that have invested in public transport have, sooner or later, seen the benefits: more business, more confidence, a cleaner environment and a satisfied public. London's Underground once set an example for the world: to regain that role, its management must have the freedom to initiate and innovate. That is why today's strikers must not prevail.

DOLE GOES FOR GROWTH

Tax plan enhances party unity and his prospects

For a candidate routinely portrayed as particularly dull, Robert Dole has shown a flair for the dramatic this summer. After his surprise decision to leave the US Senate in June, he has been bold once again by opting for the most radical of the economic options his advisers presented to him.

The Dole plan is as ambitious in scope as that which Ronald Reagan brought to Washington — and equally short on detail of the many unpopular cuts in government programmes which it would entail. The proposals that Dole outlined in Chicago would produce a 15 per cent tax cut across the board and require enormous cuts in public spending to produce a balanced budget by 2002.

Mr Dole's new-found faith in the supply-side doctrine that low taxes will automatically generate rapid non-inflationary growth and smaller federal deficits represents a philosophical shift. Traditionally he has had a more austere approach to economics, based on the persistent pursuit of a balanced budget. His devotion to orthodoxy led to votes against the major tax reductions of the Kennedy-Johnson era and a barely concealed contempt for the supply-side enthusiasts of the early 1980s. His philosophy was closer to the Republicanism of Herbert Hoover than of Ronald Reagan.

Recently, however, Mr Dole has changed, working closely with Newt Gingrich to produce a blueprint that claimed both to slash taxes by \$245 billion and to balance the budget by 2002. That Bill fell victim to President Clinton's veto. The Chicago speech was thus a continuation of the new radical Republican consensus: significant reductions in taxation; big cuts in government spending; and a balanced budget sanctified

by constitutional amendment. Mr Reagan delivered only the first of these promises. If a President Dole could fulfil all three he would transform American economics and politics.

For Mr Dole this daring choice was probably unavoidable, since it will allow him to base his election campaign in an area where his party is united. Whatever their differences on social policy — especially abortion and the influence of the small religious Right — virtually all Republicans embrace the economic outlook that their candidate will now champion. The voting public regards President Clinton with suspicion on issues of public revenues, despite the excellent performance of the American economy under his watch.

Mr Dole therefore believes that the more he can associate himself with the themes of minimal taxation, smaller government and rapid economic growth, the greater will be his chances in the November contest. The White House is aware of its weaknesses if the battle is waged on this terrain. Democrats rushed to highlight how much Mr Dole had moved towards the fiscal philosophy of Mr Gingrich, and suggested an election year conversion. For Bill Clinton to accuse any other politician of inconsistency and poll-driven policy is the height of hypocrisy. The economic performance of the Reagan years, with real annual growth averaging virtually 4 per cent between 1983 and 1989, is there to be judged. The difficulty then was the failure to attack federal expenditure and thereby avoid budget deficits. If Mr Dole can make a compelling case for the parallel reduction in both tax and spending, then his economic message may yet kick-start his stagnant campaign.

COMING HOME

Brown ale and claret should toast the rover's return

Few prodigal sons have commanded such prodigious sums as Alan Shearer. The Geordie schoolboy who made hearts pound harder under three-lioned shirts this summer returned in triumph to his native Newcastle yesterday with pounds rather than palms strewn his golden boots. His return, from Blackburn, to the corner of England where he first learnt to test the strength of the netting is worthy of a double celebration. It is glorious affirmation that one's feet feel most comfortable where they first touched the ground and it is a symbol of the cultural and economic regeneration of Geordieland.

Alan Shearer is not the first football hero to return to the smokiest of his youth after delighting the world from Lancashire. Sir Stanley Matthews, the Hermes-heeled winger who brought glory to Blackpool and style to an England shirt in the Fifties, returned to his hometown club, Stoke City, in 1961. Wiseacres of the time derided the money lavished on a player thought past his best. But the winger was worthy of his hire. Sir Stan attracted 35,288 spectators and transformed a ground described as a graveyard with floodlights by bringing in many thousands more than he cost.

Newcastle United will have to have many thousands more seats in the new stadium their chairman, Sir John Hall, plans for them if they are to make back the £15 million Alan Shearer cost. But then Sir John has already shown his skill in making back millions on outrageous investments. When the shipyards of the Tyne fell silent and

Northumberland's colliery wheels spun their last, he bought up acres outside Gateshead and built a shopping mall while pay-packets dwindled. The MetroCentre could have been a white elephant, but it became a bloated cash cow.

Now, reborn confidence and rising sun technology have transformed the North East. To match the industrial makeover Sir John proposes a football facility with a Newcastle Sporting Club, after the style of Barcelona or Lisbon, which gives its supporters rugby, soccer, boxing and more in surroundings to shame the South. The dreams of civic improvement entertained by the too-easily tempted T. Dan Smith are now being realised, but by modern enterprise not municipal socialism.

Socialism's shade is shrinking in the area even as it attracts the best of new Labour. The Majorite mafia in East Anglia is matched by the Blairite broadsword in the North East. From Peter Mandelson, the Hartlepool Talleyrand, to the shrewd Stephen Byers in Walsend and the intelligent Alan Milburn in Darlington, not to mention Mo Mowlam and Doug Henderson, the heart of new Labour lies twist Tyne and Tees. When the late John Smith attended a party in Tony Blair's constituency he asked for a drink and was offered, in a metaphor for modernisation, Brown Ale or claret. Whether it is Newcastle Brown in North Shields or Château Talbot in Tynemouth, Geordies should be raising a glass this week to their renaissance and the rover's return.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Moral implications of aborting a twin and of destroying human embryos

From the Right Reverend Lord Habgood

Sir, Libby Purves ("How we dish our values", August 6) is right. The medical profession has slid too far in trying to match reproductive performance to individual wishes, and it is time to re-establish some basic moral principles.

The moral justification for abortion rests on the principle that it is a choice between two evils, and on the belief that personhood, and hence the moral value of the foetus, grows from imperceptible beginnings up to the stage at which the foetus is capable of independent existence. At this point abortion becomes infanticide.

There should thus be a close relationship between the gravity of the reason for an abortion and the stage of development at which it is performed.

Talk about frozen embryos as "babies" confuses the issue. Unless we are to ascribe full personal value to every new genetic combination, the main moral value of a conceptus must lie in the hopes invested in it by its parents. If they do not want it, then morally speaking it is not much different from the millions of unmoored early miscarriages.

The fact that frozen embryos have been deliberately created and are consciously destroyed adds an obligation to do so with respect. But to ascribe personhood to them runs the risk of emptying the term of any useful meaning.

A 16-week-old foetus is another matter altogether. The most disturbing feature of the present case is not so much that one twin should be taken and the other left, but that any foetus at this stage of development should be aborted for purely social reasons.

Unless there are special circumstances which have not been made public, this would seem to me morally

indefensible, and contrary to the clear intentions of the Abortion Act. The fact that the BMA regards it as normal (report, August 5) only compounds the offence.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HABGOOD,
18 The Mount,
Malton, North Yorkshire,
August 6.

From Mr Tom Morrell

Sir, I am deeply disturbed by the attitude of the BMA that the abortion of a perfectly healthy twin is "no different from any other abortion". In that it robs a child of its life that is probably correct, but it also deprives the surviving infant of a lifelong companion and friend.

In observing my own three-year-old twins I can detect that they have an intuitive understanding of each other and provide loyal support at times of crisis, which my other young children could not possibly satisfy.

The surgeon concerned gives one reason for the decision as "strained circumstances". Help and support are available to the mothers of twins through the Twins and Multiple Births Association, from friends, neighbours, and even social services.

The "heaviness" experienced by Ian Craft, Director of the London Gynaecology and Fertility Centre, and others against performing selective terminations. Perhaps it's time for the Abortion Act to be at least amended.

Sincerely,
TOM MORRELL,
43 Cranes Park Avenue,
Surrey, Surrey.

From Mr T. Y. Benyon

Sir, When the abortion laws were liberalised in the early Seventies rigor-

ous safeguards were implemented to ensure that terminations would not be delivered on demand.

By 1981, when my wife was pregnant with our fourth child, our doctor offered her the choice of termination apparently for no reason other than convenience.

By 1990, when I was chairman of the Milton Keynes Health Authority, the restrictions seemed to have vanished. Today, abortion appears to be offered almost as a matter of course.

My attempt to encourage an adoption service was regarded with amazement. The "counsellors" to those considering an abortion were those who supplied the service. No one thought the apparent conflict of interests remarkable.

Perhaps those who campaign for the introduction of euthanasia, with proper safeguards of course, might consider what happens after a decade.

Yours faithfully,
TOM BENYON,
PO Box 181,
Adstock, Buckingham, MK18 2RN,
August 6.

From Mrs A. C. Griffin

Sir, As a parent who has two children as a result of infertility treatment, I was interested to read the letter of July 31 from the Archbishop of Glasgow and others which sought a ban on the creation of excess embryos during in vitro fertilisation (IVF).

The number of embryos produced during a treatment cycle depends on each individual's response to the drugs used to stimulate ovulation. With some women several eggs will reach maturity; others may have no eggs to collect.

Not all the eggs removed will fertilise when mixed with sperm to form an embryo and not all embryos will be

considered healthy enough to reintroduce into the womb.

The success rate for IVF is only about 30 per cent at the best clinics, so nature seems to be doing an efficient job of rejection at every stage.

A fifth of all confirmed pregnancies end in miscarriage and it is a sad fact that many thousands of embryos are lost every day naturally, or by the use of contraceptive devices, and by socially acceptable terminations.

IVF is primarily concerned with the creation of life and has given hope to many couples who would be childless without it. I for one give thanks to God for the skill and technology that made my family a reality.

Yours faithfully,
A. C. GRIFFIN,
18 Marlborough Road,
Talbot Village,
Parkstone, Poole, Dorset,
August 2.

From Mrs Mary Russell

Sir, I cannot understand all the fuss about the destruction of some 3,000 human embryos (report, August 2). The point that matters in this over-argued debate is that when you produce human life in the laboratory you debase the miracle of new life to just another commodity.

Having done so, there is no particular surprise to find yourself facing issues typical of all commodities, such as how to dispose of those which are extra to requirements.

The destruction of human embryos may indeed diminish us all as some say. But the real diminishment was accomplished by their production in the first place.

Yours faithfully,
MARY RUSSELL,
5 Cedar Road, Sutton, Surrey,
August 3.

White lies

From Mr Duncan Bryson

Sir, Dr Johnson may have worried over fabricating his reporting of Parliament, as Simon Jenkins asserts ("Joe Klein and his white lie", July 27), but did not seem so concerned about initially denying his authorship of *London*, a satire on the government of the day.

No one was more zealous for truth, but he conceded: that what a man has no right to ask, you may refuse to communicate and there is no other ethical mode of preserving a secret, and an important secret, the discovery of which may be very hurtful to you, but a flat denial; for if you are silent, or hesitate, or evade, it will be held equivalent to a confession.

Yours sincerely,
DUNCAN BRYSON,
109 Martin Avenue, Irvine, Ayrshire,
July 27.

Chocolate producers

From the Director of the Biscuit, Cake, Chocolate and Confectionery Alliance

Sir, The British chocolate market was worth more than £3 billion in 1995, so there is plenty of room for all types, including those promoted by Tony Patrick in the Chocolate Box column (Weekend, July 20).

However, what evidence has he that large cocoa buyers renege on agreements? And why does he think that large manufacturers are uncaring for the welfare of labourers?

This alliance has long urged the producing countries to develop alternative methods of pest control. Where the use of agri-chemicals is essential we aim to ensure that these are strictly controlled.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN NEWMAN,
Director,
The Biscuit, Cake, Chocolate and Confectionery Alliance,
37-41 Bedford Row, WC1,
August 1.

Maddened by bells

From Mr M. D. Eden

Sir, A letter today, in defence of bell-ringing, was printed thus: "Visiting other churches broadens the experience of ringers, as does the occasional peal."

Are you advocating bell-ringing in the buff? I think we should be tolled.

Yours etc,
M. D. EDEN,
38 Arkwright Road, NW3,
August 5.

Down on the farm?

From Miss Anne Molyneux

Sir, According to your newspaper today, we are invited, if we "know a be-nificent tip-off", to "give us a telephone tip-off", an inquiry into A-level grades cannot proceed because "officials say exam papers from earlier decades have been hard to find", and made-to-measure body armour, to be known as "Metvest", is to be issued to 28,000 Metropolitan Police officers.

Brush up your Orwell. Start quoting him now. Perhaps only the date was inaccurate.

Yours faithfully,
ANNE MOLYNEUX,
Masons (solicitors),
30 Aylesbury Street, EC1,
August 5.

Danger of delaying decision over European currency

From the Director of the European Movement — United Kingdom

Sir, For the record, it was not the Government's current "wait and see" policy on economic and monetary union that was criticised by the MPs in the Treasury Select Committee (report, July 30). In fact, they were warning against the UK adopting a "wait and see" policy some years hence, when the single currency is launched.

Their point was that if the UK is disposed to join, it should do so at the outset, rather than delaying entry and waiting to see how the currency develops. This hesitation would leave the UK powerless to shape monetary policy, in the same way that Britain allowed others to frame the common agricultural policy.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN WOODARD,
Director, European Movement — United Kingdom,
Dean Bradley House,
52 Horseferry Road, SW1,
July 31.

From Lord Carr of Hadley

Sir, Your leader of July 30, "Off the fence", provokes me too much. Off the fence leads only into the mire. If you believe that all the big decisions in Europe have already been taken you

must, it seems to me, have temporarily lost both your common sense and your depth of political knowledge.

If you are in fact wrong about this, then the policy you apparently advocate — an announcement now that Britain will not accept membership of a common currency during the lifetime of the next Parliament — would be incalculably damaging to the future interests of Britain. It would indeed be sending the next British Government naked to the European conference table. This would be madness.

In my view, the British people would gain substantially in the future from membership of an EMU, including a single currency. But not at any price — only on terms which we have helped to form and which we believe to be the best available and to be acceptable.

Even if I believed the opposite, I would still want the British Government to have a full and effective negotiating part in the impending European conferences.

The actual detailed terms for a single currency will be just as important for Britain in the long run if we are outside the agreement as if we are in it. But what effective influence could our ministers wield if all the other countries know for certain that, for what could be as long as six years, the British Government is bound to say no to whatever is proposed?

Vintage air crashes

From Mr Ian C. Statham

Sir, Mr David A. Horton (letter, July 25) is only partly right in his observations that older aircraft tend to be less forgiving and need to be flown with care. The fact is that display flying in any aircraft is the most hazardous type of flying, and vintage aircraft such as the Mosquito fly almost solely for displays.

Also significant is that the pool of experience and knowledge gained on these rare types has been largely lost. In recent years some accidents have been for reasons which experienced pilots in the aircraft's heyday would have known about and avoided. I remember, following the loss of a vintage Meteor jet and a Blenheim bomber some years ago, an old friend and wartime pilot telling me that all the squadron pilots "knew about that problem". Unfortunately the latter-day pilots did not.

The loss of the Mosquito was, for me, especially poignant. It was the only airworthy example in Britain and one of only two in the world. The Mosquito was a work of art as well as a masterpiece of engineering and craftsmanship. As with the Spitfire, few could see its beauty in the sky and hear the sound of its Merlin engines without being moved. The appearance of the Mosquito at any display was guaranteed to draw the crowds. It had the same effect as a Spitfire and Concorde — possibly more so because it was rarer.

It is my hope that an enterprising individual or group in Britain will find the means to restore one of the remaining static Mosquitos to flying condition again, as a tribute to the men who died in these aircraft.

Yours faithfully,
IAN C. STATHAM
(Flying instructor),
42 Moored Park Road,
Leckhampton,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Business letters, page 27

Music in schools

From Mr Michael Robertson

Sir, Mrs Bottomley has spoken of making young people passionate about the arts (report, July 31). As a school director of music I have watched powerlessly over the last decade and more while the arts have been systematically dismantled in our state schools. Instrumental tuition, local music services and youth orchestras have all but disappeared. At national level, the London City Ballet has collapsed and at least one London orchestra may follow.

Once again, our politicians have failed or refused to see the cause of the problem. Our heritage has been allowed to become the victim of market forces. "Value for money" may well be the cry, but if there is not nearly enough money how can there be anything of value? What is the point of a national curriculum for music if schools cannot afford to purchase musical instruments and provide the staff to teach them?

Full and proper funding from central government for the arts at all levels is essential. Lottery sources are painfully inadequate. As a nation, we have not been prepared to safeguard our artistic life and we are now paying the consequences.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL ROBERTSON,
Orchard Cottage, 3 Orchard Terrace,
Main Street, Northiam, East Sussex,
August 1.

Seeing is believing

From Mr Charles Barrand

Sir, For months now broadcasting schedules have been dominated night and day by sporting events to the exclusion of other interests. We are living under a ruthless spectatorship.

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES BARRAND,
171 George Readings Way,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire,
August 5.

Suez and Hungary

From Sir Ronald Preston

Sir, Having been your correspondent in Budapest at the time, I would like to endorse Mr Donald Bush's view (letter, August 1) on the doleful effect that the Suez adventure had on events in Hungary. Soviet tanks had just withdrawn to outside Budapest after their first clashes with the insurgents and there was some reason to hope that they would not return.

Then the news of the attack on Suez broke. It was received with dismay by everyone I talked to. The lift attendant at my hotel expressed the general feeling when he angrily told me that morning that there would be no stopping the Russians now.

Subsequently a Soviet diplomat remarked to me privately that we had both been bad boys, "what with you in Suez and us in Hungary".

Yours faithfully,
RONALD PRESTON,
68 Saxmundham Road,
Aldeburgh, Suffolk,
August 2.

Club evening

From Mrs J. C. Trewin

Sir, The Queen's planned visit to the Garrick Club next December (not September, as stated in today's Diary) may be her first at the Garrick's invitation, but it is not her first to the club's premises.

She attended a reception held there on November 8, 1989, at the invitation of the Royal Theatrical Fund, to celebrate the fund's 150th anniversary. Kingsley Amis would have remembered the occasion; he was annoyed by the disruption caused.

Yours sincerely,
WENDY TREWIN,
14 Eldon Grove, NW3,
July 30.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

OBITUARIES

FRANK MARCUS



Frank Marcus, playwright and critic, died in London from a pulmonary embolism on August 5 aged 68. He was born in Breslau, Germany (now Wrocław, Poland), on June 30, 1928.

FRANK MARCUS's sole major success, *The Killing of Sister George*, opened in the West End in 1965. It had been seen earlier at the Bristol Old Vic, then a regular try-out theatre for new plays and new authors. In London it achieved instant success. The subject, a failing "marriage" between a lesbian couple, was daring for its time and *George* only narrowly missed the attentions of the Lord Chamberlain's office (one of the reasons for its escape was that the word "lesbian" never occurred in the text).

George was witty and precisely observed. And it was immaculately cast. Beryl Reid and Eileen Atkins were the warring couple, both picking up awards for their performances, while Lally Bowers and Margaret Courtenay played the supporting roles with almost equal distinction. It had nothing in common with either the theatrical revolution that had started at the Royal Court or with the last remnants of the drawing-room comedies which still occupied part of Shaftesbury Avenue.

George ran for more than 18 months, was translated into a number of European languages and played on Broadway. It was filmed — with the radio serial, from which the district nurse Sister George is axed because of declining ratings, unwisely elevated into a TV soap. The director, Robert Aldrich, laid a heavy hand on it and the best efforts of Coral Browne and Susanannah York could not save it.

Frank Marcus did not provide the screenplay nor did he much like the film. But he took consolation from the fact that the stage *George* had collected Play of the Year awards from *Plays and Players* and *Variety* and had shared the *Evening Standard* 1965 prize with John Osborne's *A Patriot for Me*.



Frank Marcus, left, with Beryl Reid and Susanannah York in the film version of *The Killing of Sister George*, 1969

By coincidence *Patriot* and *George*, almost twins in their themes of male and female homosexuality, each had major revivals last year. *Patriot* had the backing of the RSC and did the better of the two. *George*, with Miriam Margolyes in the title role, could manage only a short run in the non-subsidised theatre.

Marcus had written several plays before *The Killing of Sister George* and he was to write more afterwards. But, however hard he tried, he was never to recreate that particular success. He did, though, become drama critic of *The Sunday Telegraph* for a decade from 1968 to 1978, taking over the seat from the first incumbent Alan Brien. Marcus was almost unique among his generation in operating from both sides of the footlights, writing for the theatre by day and observing it at night. Shaw, of course, had done the same and so, in a more modest way, had Charles Morgan when drama critic of *The Times*. But Marcus was unmanicured in the 1960s and 1970s for knowing just what made the theatre tick from inside and out. This was clear from his critical pronouncements and from the structure of his mature plays, which tended to have small casts and few scenic demands.

Frank Marcus was born of a

Jewish family in Silesia. The Marcuses moved to Berlin and Frank grew up under Nazi domination, an experience which seared him. The family had to dissemble to survive, possibly sparking off his later creative skills, and were among the last Jews to flee the country. They left in 1939. Only 30 years later did Marcus agree to revisit the streets of his boyhood.

In Britain, apart from a period as an evacuee in Shropshire, he was educated in Kent in a school staffed mainly by German Quakers. The German influence remained with him all his life, although his spiritual home was probably more the Vienna of the dramatist Arthur Schnitzler than the harsher ambience of Berlin. He recognised that he was an outsider not equipped to adapt comfortably to the traditions, theatrical and other, of his new country. Marcus was by nature and by circumstance an observer.

There was no question of a university education. He left school at 15, went to the St Martin's School of Art and drifted into the left-wing theatre as a dogbody ready to do all that was required of him — designing, acting, directing and even writing. He became a familiar figure in the "little theatres" which flourished in the late 1940s, most of them run on

club lines and filled by audiences of the communist faithful. Marcus watched the various sectarian wrangles but rarely joined in. He was not a political playwright. A series of casual jobs supported his work in the theatre and in 1950 he saw his first play, *Minuet for Stuffed Birds*, performed, which he was later to describe as a "Chekhovian exercise."

In 1951 Frank Marcus married Jacqueline Sylvester, whose parents set up their son-in-law in a silver shop in Chancery Lane. For a period he left the theatre, writing only at weekends. He probably enjoyed observing the customers coming into his shop as much as selling them shining objects. He did, though, produce his one play in the Brechtian manner, *The Man Who Bought a Battlefield*, which was duly staged by the Unity Theatre after some initial fighting in 1963.

His next play, in order of writing though not of staging, was *Clea/SMO*, an episodic study of a sexually liberated girl of those once swinging Sixties trying unsuccessfully to find an ideal man. Jane Asher, one of the icons of the period and a star of the Bristol Old Vic, played her in Bristol in 1965, the year *Sister George* came to London. Marcus is said to have based the character on

one of several pretty, free-wheeling assistants who came to work in his Chancery Lane silver shop. But before then *The Formation Dancers* had had a brief run in the West End. It was typically Marcus in dealing, in a detached and ironic way, with the marital problems of a group of London intellectuals.

Irving Wardle, in a rare major study of Marcus, which appeared in *The London Magazine*, said that he wrote about "the foibles of a small sector of metropolitan life whose denizens — Encounter contributors, gallery owners, BBC officials — are exhibited in a brightly lit aquarium". Marcus himself went halfway to agreeing with this when he admitted that his people "were *Observer* readers, trying to bridge the gap between ambition and performance, liberalism and their emotions".

And perhaps that was his problem as a playwright. Many of the pieces which followed in regular succession won respectful reviews, but there were reservations about the small size of the canvas: *Studies of the Nude* (1967), *Mr Mouse, Are You Within?* (1968), *Notes on a Love Affair* (1972). Marcus was praised for his dialogue, but the plays lacked passion and they did not succeed in drawing a wide audience. It was almost as though he was trying to translate the turn of the century Viennese idiom, which he admired so much, into London terms and was not getting the right response.

Early on in the 1950s he had translated Schnitzler successfully for television (*Liebeli and Reigen*, as *La Ronde*). He returned to his favourite Central Europe when he made a version of Ferenc Molnár's *The Guardsman* for the National. It starred Maggie Smith and was decently staged by Peter Wood, but it did not set the South Bank on fire. In the 1970s Marcus's reputation probably rested more securely on his position as drama critic of *The Sunday Telegraph*, where his weekly column was both well informed and well judged. He knew exactly what he was writing about.

However, he was already fighting against Parkinson's disease, which had affected him since the early 1960s. As the 1970s drew on he found going to the theatre more and more difficult despite the sturdy help of his wife Jacqueline. Marcus, a naturally shy and guarded man, let her do most of the talking with fellow critics, who were both convivial and concerned about him. In 1978 he handed over the post to the novelist and literary critic Francis King. Marcus went on writing for — and about — the theatre from his home. His work included *Two Plays for Schools* (1980) and a translation of Hauptmann's *The Weavers* in the same year. There were regular contributions to literary and drama magazines in this country and in America. But the grip of Parkinson's became tighter, notably after the death of his wife in 1993.

Two years ago Marcus left his Glastonbury home to be closer to his children in London. He is survived by a son and two daughters.

SIDNEY COTSON



Sidney Cotson, scientist and academic administrator, died from cancer on July 8 aged 67. He was born on August 6, 1928.

SIDNEY COTSON played an important role in the development of polytechnics towards university status, being the only member of the polytechnic sector to serve on the University Grants Committee.

He was born to Jewish immigrants from Russia who settled in Leeds. It was there that he won a scholarship to a highly work-driven grammar school, going on from there to Leeds University where he took an honours degree in chemistry and did research for a doctorate.

In 1953 he spent a year as a Fulbright scholar at Columbia University in New York. While pursuing his profession as scientist he continued to develop his interest in classical music, particularly chamber music, and in the visual arts. On his return to England he took up a post at the Courtauld Institute of Biochemistry of the Middlesex Hospital Medical School. He then moved to the Borough Polytechnic (now the University of the South Bank), where he was head of the chemistry department and then assistant director in charge of science. In 1972 he was appointed deputy director of Leicester Polytechnic (now De Montfort University) where he stayed until his retirement in 1989.

He was early associated with the Council for National Academic Awards, the validating body for the new degree

courses in polytechnics, and chaired both committees which formed policies and boards which executed them. It was at the time of growing awareness of centres of excellence in the polytechnics and the inevitability of polytechnics becoming universities that he became a member of the Universities Grants Committee, 1983-88. This was a significant appointment, pre-empting the future unity of higher education in Britain.

Cotson was also a member of the Butler Commission of Education in Northern Ireland from 1989 to 1992, which he greatly enjoyed and for which, being neither Roman Catholic nor Protestant, he was probably ideally suited. He also worked with the British Council on the development of higher education in Hong Kong, China and Egypt.

He was a highly effective chairman of committees, allowing wide discussion but curbing digression. His sense of humour and of the absurd provided him with protection in the more turgid aspects of the academic world. He was kind, gentle and generous to those who sought his help. A profound belief in education as a basis for the wellbeing of society and the individual permeated his work.

Cotson never failed to astonish his friends, even at the last when, having all his life been dismissed as possessing no voice, he learnt to sing Schubert's *Winterreise*.

He is survived by his wife Jane, an American sculptor whom he married in 1959, and by their son.

THE HON HUMPHREY FISHER

The Hon Humphrey Fisher, Head of BBC TV Science and Features, 1967-69, died on August 2 aged 72. He was born on August 23, 1923.

HUMPHREY FISHER, or "Huff" as he was affectionately known to his friends, was

the fourth of the six sons of the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Fisher of Lambeth, but that never stopped him from having a beguiling twinkle in his eye. A very likeable and competent producer in BBC Television Outside Broadcasts in the 1960s, his considerable, if untrained, in-

tellect made it possible for him always to achieve results of high distinction at the least possible cost to himself in terms of time and effort.

Apart from breaking his neck in a bicycle accident on Exmoor at the age of 17, Humphrey Richmond Fisher enjoyed a conventional clerical

upbringing: schooldays at Repton, where his father had been headmaster, followed by a wartime commission in the Royal Artillery. But he always gloried in his sense of being "the black sheep of the family".

He possessed what might be called a relaxed attitude to his

work — certainly lacking his father's stern sense of duty. One invention he would not have felt at home with in his BBC days was the mobile telephone, if only because it was his frequent custom to leave the office, when things were quiet, to go out on so-called "OB recesses".

The importance of these was that he could not possibly be contacted when engaged upon them — and it was, no doubt, a coincidence that their location as often as not turned out to be some agreeable golf course.

But like his brothers — one a High Court judge, another a headmaster — Humphrey Fisher was a distinguished ornament of his profession. During his BBC career he produced many outstanding Outside Broadcasts, especially perhaps the series which he took on called *Your Life In Their Hands* (irreverently known to the young of its day as "Their Knife In Your Glands"). This series about surgery marked the first occasion on which live television cameras were allowed into the operating theatre, and did a great deal to calm the nerves of patients who were facing hospital treatment.

When he decided in 1969 to leave the BBC in order to join the Australian Broadcasting Commission — in the mid-1960s he had been the BBC's representative in Australia — it was very much a case of the ABC's gain and the BBC's loss. He had returned to



Archbishop Fisher with his wife and six sons in April 1945. Humphrey Fisher is on the far left.

London in 1967 to be Head of Science and Features — a job that was gradually swallowed up into the general Features Group under Aubrey Singer (later to be Controller of BBC2). He, therefore, resolved to leave and accepted the offer of the post of director of TV

features for ABC. He was to spend the rest of his life in Australia. He is survived by his wife Diana ("Bubbles"), herself a journalist and well-known Australian TV personality. They had married in 1959; there were no children.

The former Prime Minister's death had been a great shock. This was clear in his appeals to Moro's captors before the murder occurred, but he never showed such depth of feeling as when he summoned up his energies at the memorial service and upbraided God for not having heard his prayers for Moro while repeating an earnest wish that the politician would be looked after in the life to come.

In a sense Paul VI had made the most outstanding historical contribution to his times by opening the way for a successor as so complicated a moment in the affairs of the Church. When he was elected he was the obvious candidate among the cardinals for the papacy. He has left no clear successor. The business of finding one is expected to be long.

Following such an outstandingly popular Pope was in itself a burden for him, which he felt keenly from the moment of his election. Yet to the general public, which in the first

THE POPE DIES AFTER HEART ATTACK AT HIS SUMMER RESIDENCE

From Peter Nichols

Rome, Aug 6
The Pope died of a heart attack tonight at his lakeside summer residence in Castelgandolfo. He was already confined to bed because of an acute recurrence of arthritis and as recently as Tuesday had been speaking openly of his impending end. Pope Paul VI would have been 81 next month. His troubled and crucial reign, in terms of the direction of modern Catholicism, had lasted 15 years. Vatican Radio broadcast an invitation in many languages to the faithful tonight to pray for the Pope's soul.

A Mass was immediately said in the church where the Pope himself had referred recently to his advancing age, and to the short time he felt he had left. Few Pops have been so prepared for death, having thought about it aloud and spoken about it with such frequency.

Last autumn when he left the palace, which is set in the Alban hills to the south of Rome, to come back to the Vatican, he said to the people gathered in the square: "Who knows if we shall see each other again next year."

Paul VI's reign was of historic importance, not least for such personal breaks with

ON THIS DAY

August 7, 1978

Giovanni Battista Montini, Pope Paul VI, maintained the traditional doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church, in particular with his encyclical *Humanae Vitae* (1968). His successor, Albino Luciani, Pope John Paul I, reigned only a few months.

tradition as his journeys to all the world's continents. If he had done nothing more he would have been remembered for having travelled further than all his predecessors in office put together. He was faced with the huge, and generally thankless, task of giving a structure to the changes and the uncertainties introduced by the Second Vatican Council, the calling of which had been the work of his immediate predecessor John XXIII.

Following such an outstandingly popular Pope was in itself a burden for him, which he felt keenly from the moment of his election. Yet to the general public, which in the first

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Imagine how it would be if advertisements lived up to their promises. Simon Brooke on companies who are now selling truth

Honesty: is it the best policy?

Imagine going on holiday and the resort turning out to be just as described in the brochure. Imagine the joy of buying a product and it being as promised in the advert.

In these days of "amazing new" and "best ever" campaigns, consumers have learnt to take most advertisements with a pinch of salt. But a wave of honesty appears to be sweeping across some areas of the industry. Holidaymakers reading the latest Thomson brochure, for example, will find a whole new degree of candour in the descriptions of its resorts.

Thinking of visiting Montego Bay in Jamaica next year? "Be prepared for some aircraft noise," says Thomson. Why not try Turkey then? "The downside is that some places have grown so fast that maintenance has not kept pace." What about the Costa Brava? "Charm is not a word that springs to mind," it says.

Gloria Ward of Thomson accepts that providing customers with information not in the style of the usual sales pitch presupposes a high level of customer intelligence. "Twenty-five years ago consumerism did not exist and simply going abroad was often excitement enough. But now that people are better travelled they know what they want and are more demanding."

Stefano Hatfield, editor of *Campaign* magazine, agrees that consumers are now "more sophisticated and even cynical", but points out that "some-

times it is a last resort for advertisers when they've lost credibility. The most interesting one was the Tories' 'Yes it hurt. Yes it worked' posters. It was brave but it backfired because people just remembered the 'Yes it hurt' bit."

The tobacco giant Philip Morris has just completed a similar but more hazardous strategy in the debate over health and passive smoking. Launched in early June, its "relative risk" adverts admit that "smoking is a risk factor for lung cancer and other diseases in smokers".

However, the campaign goes on to argue that the dangers are less than the dangers associated with a variety of activities such as drinking milk or chlorinated water, or eating biscuits or pepper. "It is giving up a bit of ground in the debate to gain a lot more," says one strategist.

"If you want to take on the health issue you have to take on lung cancer and so that's what we did," explains David Greenberg, Philip Morris vice-president for corporate affairs in Europe. Death Cigarettes, launched in the early 1990s, addressed the health issue. "They had some very clever lines but it sort of palled after a while because it was a one-off joke," said a tobacco industry insider.

Mr Hatfield believes that marketing gimmickry is also behind the new TV and cinema commercials for the fizzy drink Sprite. "A soft drink is



Holidaymakers have to struggle to find a space for themselves and their umbrellas on Malia beach in Crete. Will travel brochures now describe exactly how crowded it is?

not a magic potion, a status symbol or a badge that says who I am. It will not make me popular, it intones the voice-over before the slogan: "Image is nothing. Thrust is everything."

The health issue is one that has dogged the McDonald's hamburger chain and again the company has decided to confront it head on. "Obviously if you eat too much of anything it is bad for you and our new leaflet tells people what roles McDonald's can play in a balanced diet," says Veronica Foster.

Stefano Hatfield believes this approach can reap rewards in the long term: "It establishes a trust between the consumer and the marketer. People think 'I can trust McDonald's when they say that their hamburgers are 100 per cent pure beef because they are prepared to be honest in all these other respects'."

NBC sets an Olympic broadcast record

John Goodbody on why television coverage of the Games did not quite qualify as sport

THERE IS little doubt about the most valuable gold medal at the Atlanta Olympics. It was won by the National Broadcasting Company (NBC), the US broadcaster of the Games.

The American network spent £350 million for the exclusive American rights to the event. It seemed expensive but it has proved to be a bargain. Ratings were more than 25 per cent higher than in 1992. With advertising companies paying £480,000 for a 30-second advertising spot during peak viewing time, NBC expects to have made a profit of at least £50 million.

Advertisers are delighted with the coverage. Arnie Semsky of the BBDO agency, which represents such Olympic sponsors as Visa, Delta Airlines and Wrigley's Gum, says: "We could not be happier in terms of the ratings." He is not the only one.

Over the past fortnight, NBC has dominated the battle with rival tele-

vision channels. During the first week of the Games, its total number of viewers was nearly four times higher than CBS, its nearest competitor. This was the week that attracted nearly 100 million people to watch the final of the women's gymnastics team event.

Although the competition did not finish until midnight, a record audience for the Summer Olympics watched the gymnastics that evening. Among sports events, only the Super Bowl, which can top 120 million, has regularly got larger audiences.

For NBC, it was the critical moment. When Kerri Strug landed her vault on her damaged foot, to help the United States to win the gold medal for the first time and simultaneously become

the heroine of the Games and the biggest talking point across the nation, only NBC could screen it.

SOME PEOPLE thought that the decision by NBC to spend £2.6 billion to buy up six of the next seven Summer and Winter Olympics until 2008 might be ill-advised. After these Games, people were wondering what the price would have been if the International Olympic Committee (IOC) had delayed negotiations until these Games were over.

The way that NBC achieves such ratings is not to portray the Olympics purely as sport. It packages certain competitions almost as soap opera. Many events do not go "live" as

they do in Britain, but "plausibly" live, sometimes up to some hours after they have actually taken place.

Sport is interspersed not only with advertisements but also with biographies of personalities, preferably with a sentimental story to tell. There is the recovery from illness, the murder of the wrestling buddy for which a millionaire enthusiast has been charged, the death of the parent. Mark Phillips, an official with the US equestrian team, gives the opportunity of an appearance not just of his former wife, the Princess Royal, but also the Prince and Princess of Wales.

Dick Ebersol, the head of NBC sports, denies he is trying to run sports. He says: "I have it better. I get to arrange how all these things are perceived in the world."

However, if you wanted to watch the Olympics as sport, you were better off staying in Britain.

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NEWS

Mother aborts twin before ban

An unmarried mother has had one of a pair of healthy twins aborted, it was disclosed last night, hours after anti-abortion campaigners won an injunction to halt the operation.

It was unclear when the termination was carried out, but Lord Winston, the test-tube baby pioneer who is close to several people involved, said he believed it was several weeks ago. The campaigners were prepared to offer the woman £45,000 to persuade her to keep both babies. Page 1

Rock from Mars offers signs of life

The first evidence of extra-terrestrial life may have been detected by scientists from the US space agency, Nasa. In a meteorite that originated on Mars, they have found chemical evidence suggesting that simple forms of life must have existed on the planet at some time in the past. Page 1

Plea to gendarme

The parents of murdered schoolgirl Caroline Dickinson urged the French police to redouble their efforts after DNA tests cleared the tramp who confessed to raping her. Page 1

Ulster standoff

Northern Ireland faces the prospect of violent sectarian clashes this weekend after nationalists and Unionists failed to reach agreement over a loyalist parade in Londonderry. Page 1

Ballot demand

Postal union leaders came under pressure to mount a national ballot on an A-Cas peace plan after some workers rejected strike action and demanded a resolution to the dispute. Page 2

Norfolk find

The remains of an early Roman fort built to impose order on Boudicca and the marauding Iceni have been discovered in Norfolk. Page 3

Murder over pigs

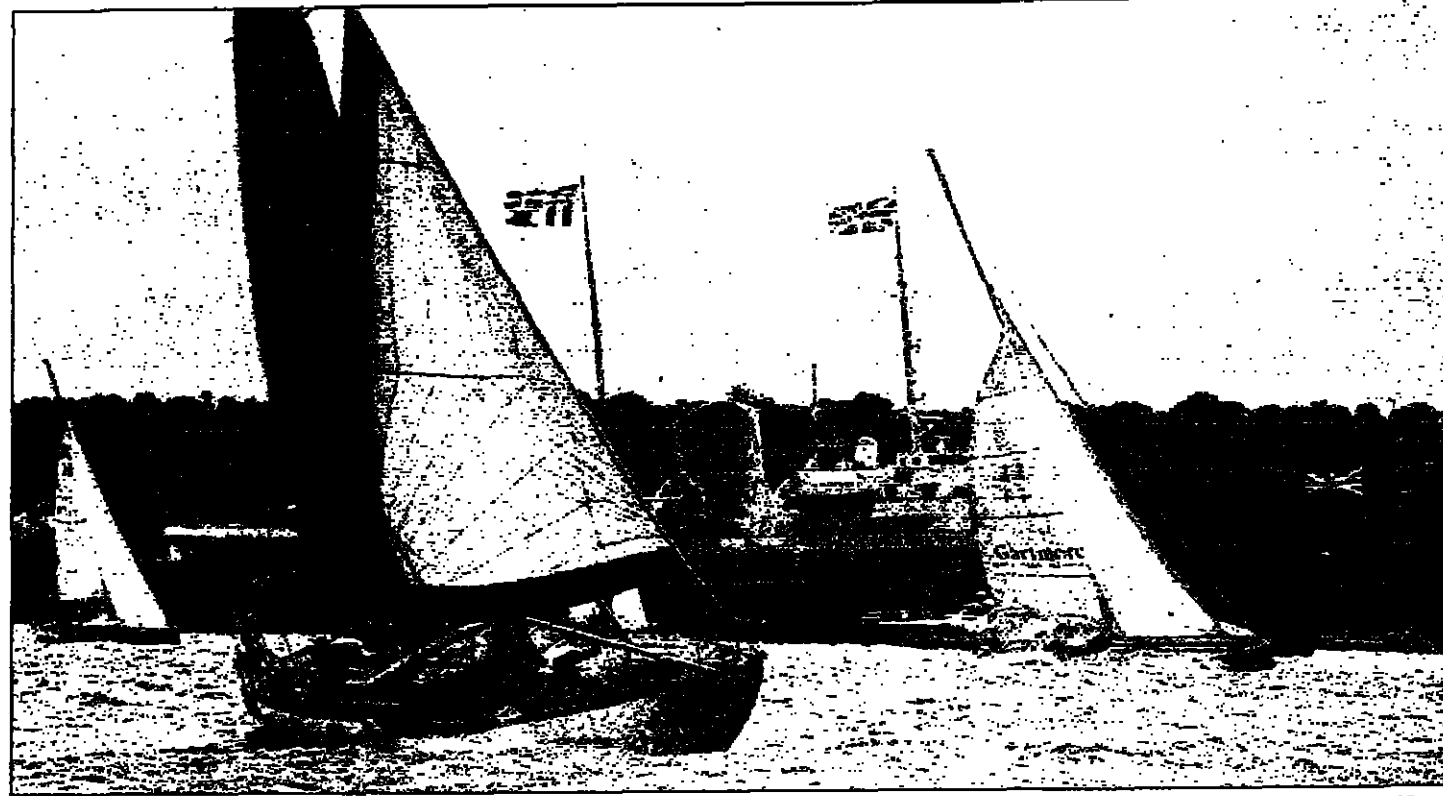
A man who went to the defence of a pair of pot-bellied piglets he kept in his garden was kicked to death by a gang threatening to burn them alive. Page 3

Rantzen defended

The BBC leapt to Esther Rantzen's defence after she clashed on air with Dr Thomas Stuttaford, the Times columnist, over the illness known as ME. Page 5

New 'Lolita' is too hot for Hollywood

Jeremy Irons, one of Britain's most respected exports to Hollywood, may never be seen by American audiences in his next film because it depicts him having sex with a 14 year-old girl. No one in Hollywood is willing to touch the intensely controversial re-make of Vladimir Nabokov's classic novel *Lolita*. Page 9



Yachts, of different classes, take up position in front of the Royal Yacht Britannia during racing at Cowes yesterday. Report, page 42

BUSINESS

Barclays: The bank pleased the City with its half year results and made its third buy-back of shares from shareholders in the past year. Page 23

Bid off: Hays, the business services group, called off its bid for Christian Salvesen, the distribution group. Page 23

BCCI: A High Court judgment cleared the way for nearly 38,000 UK creditors of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International to receive their first payment. Page 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index rose 0.1 points to close at 3788.4. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 84.2 to 84.0 after a fall from \$1.5437 to \$1.5367 and from DM2.2865 to DM2.2814. Page 26

SPORT

Football: Alan Shearer, the England striker and the world's costliest player, arrived on Tyneside after completing his £15 million move to Newcastle United to the delight of thousands of excited supporters. Page 44

Sailing: It was a dramatic day on the Solent as a gale force wind ravaged the Skandia Life Cowes Week fleet. Page 42

Cricket: Peter Lever, the bowling coach to the England team, has resigned on the eve of the critical second Test match against Pakistan. Page 44

Golf: The winner in the US PGA, the last of the major championships of the season, is likely to emerge from an unheralded group of players. Page 41

ARTS

Screen star: Jeff Goldblum, full of the charm expected from one of the biggest box-office draws in Hollywood, talks about his latest role in *Independence Day*. Page 30

Art on the move: Unable to expand any more, the growing Guggenheim Museum in New York is now spreading its wings into Spain, offering a 21st-century experience of art and architecture. Page 30

Arts anniversary: With the approach of the Edinburgh Festival, Richard Morrison reflects on the glorious, and not so glorious events of the past 50 years. Page 31

High notes: As *Emmeline* opens at the Santa Fe Opera House in New Mexico, Tobias Picker's debut work is being hailed as the greatest American opera in years. Page 32

FEATURES

Leave it alone: An international conference on Antarctica is being held. The continent must be preserved from all commercial interests. Page 13

Private enterprise: Foiled by the postal strikes, Magnus Linklater tries to deliver his own letters but is foiled by Edinburgh's new traffic system. Page 13

FASHION

Raid on the locker room: Team a sports top (preferably zipped and hooded) with a slinky skirt, add American moccasins and scraped-back hair, and relax for the rest of the summer. Page 12

Super salesman: When it comes to selling your house, you want results. Rachel Kelly names the men and women regarded as the best agents in the property business. Page 19

THE PAPERS

Bob Dole's tax-cut plan is a politically bold if irresponsible ploy to resurrect his campaign. The 15 per cent across-the-board tax cut is big enough to win voters' attention and excite their greed. Mr Dole is hoping to put some spark in his campaign and cast President Clinton as a guardian of the Government programmes the Republicans have yet to dismantle. Page 17

— The New York Times

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

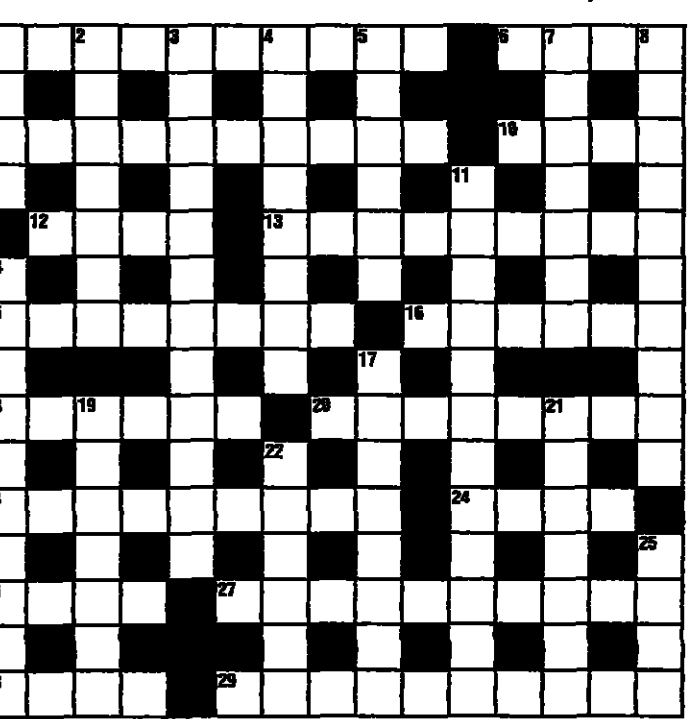
FILMS

Geoff Brown on the alien invasion epic *Independence Day* (left), plus other new releases

BOOKS

Bernard Levin on a biography of Wagner by Michael Tanner

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,240



- ACROSS**
- Becoming uniform for a social occasion (7,3).
 - Seek fresh increases (4).
 - Used vehicle (7,3).
 - Arab prince recalls Ancient Mariner's story (4).
 - Fastener for a jumper (4).
 - Sign once left by Irishman inside, free of charge (9).
 - Decide to study old coin in this, for example (8).
 - Horrorised at being cut by jagged gash (6).
 - Starters for the Oaks (6).
 - One slum I refurbished — with this? (8).
 - At home, arrange to put in new grass (9).
- DOWN**
- Time to return to a region (4).
 - Women prepared to follow orders (4).
 - Bound to give others credit for reform (10).
 - Use deception to get university place (4).
 - Can-opener? (6,4).
 - Find this big lake up country (4).
 - Surround a number breaking into French club (7).
 - Get criminal record for this? (7,5).
 - Gallery aims to get unexpected windfalls (8).
 - Time for redemption, states article on church (6).
 - God of love takes hold of friend — capital? (7).
 - Mineral water for Londoners (10).
 - All of a tingle, possibly, from such a beating (12).
 - Give rise to chap — that's not very common (10).
 - Copies I revise at times (8).
 - Aggressive action taken by those insulted (7).
 - Apathy I retain, however moved (7).
 - Rush job? (6).
 - A boundary gives us the lead (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,239

KNAVE OF HEARTS
INSPECTOR SNAP
GENTLENESS
KEIGH OVEN SHOT
EATING TABERN
BRIDGE
ONAGERS SIGNOR
CANDY TALKING
KISS NEST OWING
ENTERTAINING
PHONE SCRUTATOR
SWEETIE
MISUNDERSTOOD

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London	701
North-Surrey-Sussex	702
Dorset-Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wales, Shropshire & North	705
Bedfordshire & Essex	706
Northampton & Cambs	707
West Midlands & Shropshire	708
Shropshire & Wales	709
Central Midlands	710
East Midlands	711
Lincoln & Humbershire	712
Dyfed & Powys	713
Gwynedd & Ceredigion	714
W & S Wales & Wales	715
N & E England	716
Central & Lake District	717
S & W England	718
W & S Wales & Wales	719
Edinburgh & Borders	720
Edinburgh & Borders	721
Edinburgh & Borders	722
Edinburgh & Borders	723
Edinburgh & Borders	724
Edinburgh & Borders	725
Edinburgh & Borders	726
Edinburgh & Borders	727

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic roadwatching information, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 401 followed by the appropriate code:

London & SE traffic, roadwatching	731
Area 1000	732
Area 1000	733
Area 1000	734
Area 1000	735
Area 1000	736
Area 1000	737
Area 1000	738
Area 1000	739
Area 1000	740

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday, highest day temp: Colchester, Norfolk, 25°C. Lowest day temp: Lough Foyle, Co Tyrone, 11°C. Highest rainfall: Macclesfield, Cheshire, 11.6mm. Highest sunshine: Guernsey, Channel Isles, 10.2h.

FORECAST

General: Wales, along with south and southwest England, will be rather cloudy with the odd light shower, but also a few bright or sunny intervals. The remainder of England will be mostly cloudy with rain, although it should slowly become drier from the west.

Northern Ireland and western Scotland will be rather cloudy, perhaps with the odd spot of rain. The rest of Scotland will be grey and wet, but the heavier rain should peter out from the West. Most places will be cool and breezy.

London, SE England, Central S England: mostly dry, bright or sunny spells developing. Wind west light or moderate, occasionally fresh at first. Max 21°C (70°F).

E Angles, E Midlands, W Midlands, NW England, Lake District, Central N England, SW Scotland, Glasgow: occasional rain drying out from the west and becoming brighter. Wind west or northwest fresh, decreasing moderate. Max 18°C (64°F).

Channel Isles, SW England, Wales: bright or sunny intervals, perhaps a light shower at first. Wind west light or moderate. Max 19°C (66°F).

Isle of Man, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland: rather cloudy, perhaps the odd spot of rain. Wind mainly northwesterly light. Max 17°C (63°F).

E England, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth: cloudy with rain slowly petering out. Wind mainly north or northwest fresh, locally strong at first. Cool. Max 15°C (59°F).

NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: dull with patchy rain edging northwards. Wind mainly east moderate or fresh. Max 14°C (57°F).

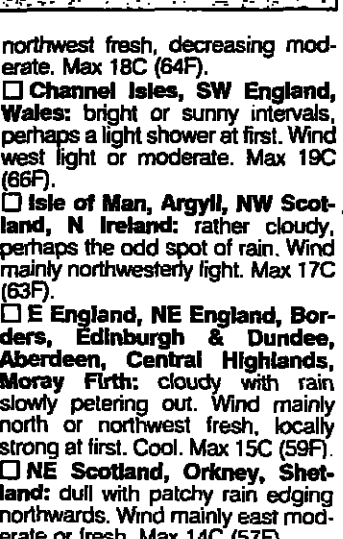
Outlook: rain, mainly in the North. Sunny intervals mostly in the South.

AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm: b = bright; c = cloud; d = drizzle; ds = dust storm; du = dust; l = fog; lg = fog; g = gale; h = hail; f = rain; sh = shower; sl = sleet; sn = snow; s = sun; t = thunder; w = wind.

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain	Max
Abertawe	18	17	63	c	19
Anglesey	18	17	63	c	19
Armagh	18	17	63	c	19
Aspinall	18	17	63	c	19
Ashford	18	17	63	c	19
Belfast	18	17	63	c	19
Birmingham	18	17	63	c	19
Bournemouth	18	17	63	c	19
Bristol	18	17	63	c	19
Buckingham	18	17	63	c	19
Cardiff	18	17	63	c	19
Canterbury	18	17	63	c	19
Colwyn Bay	18	17	63	c	19
Cornwall	18	17	63	c	19
Cromer	18	17	63	c	19
Dumfries	18	17	63	c	19
Eastbourne	18	17	63	c	19
Edinburgh	18	17	63	c	19
Falmouth	18	17	63	c	19
Gloucester	18	17	63	c	19
High Wycombe	18	17	63	c	19
London	18	17	63	c	19
Manchester	18	17	63	c	19
Marlow	18	17	63	c	19
Medford	18	17	63	c	19
Merthyr Tydfil	18	17	63	c	19
Middlesbrough	18	17	63	c	19
Millers Point	18	17	63	c	19
Monmouth	18	17	63	c	19
Northampton	18	17	63	c	19
Northwich	18	17	63	c	19
Nottingham	18	17	63	c	19
Oldham	18	17	63	c	19
Orkney	18	17	63	c	19
Perth	18	17	63	c	19
Portsmouth	18	17	63	c	19
Reading	18	17	63	c	19
Sheffield	18	17	63	c	19
Southampton	18	17	63	c	19
Stirling	18	17	63	c	19
Stroud	18	17	63	c	19
Sunderland	18	17	63	c	19
Torquay	18	17	63	c	19
Warrington	18	17	63	c	19
Widnes	18	17	63	c	19
Worcester	18	17	63	c	19
Wrexham	18	17	63	c	19

NOON TODAY



HIGH TIDES

Changes to chart below from noon, low M will edge northeast and fill. Low R will run northeast and deepen. High A will show little change. High B will drift east and decline.

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain	Max
Abertawe	18	17	63	c	19
Anglesey	18	17	63	c	19
Armagh	18	17	63	c	19
Aspinall	18	17	63	c	19
Ashford	18	17	63	c	19
Belfast	18	17	63	c	19
Birmingham	18	17	63	c	19
Bournemouth	18	17	63	c	19
Bristol	18	17	63	c	19
Buckingham	18	17	63	c	19
Cardiff	18	17	63	c	19
Canterbury	18	17	63	c	19
Colwyn Bay	18	17	63	c	19
Cornwall	18	17	63	c	19
Cromer	18	17	63	c	19
Dumfries	18	17	63	c	19
Eastbourne	18	17	63	c	19
Edinburgh	18	17	63	c	19
Falmouth	18	17	63	c	19
Gloucester	18	17	63	c	19
High Wycombe	18	17	63	c	19
London	18	17	63	c	19
Manchester	18	17	63	c	19
Marlow	18	17	63	c	19
Medford	18	17	63	c	19
Merthyr Tydfil	18	17	63	c	19
Middlesbrough	18	17	63	c	19
Millers Point	18	17	63	c	19
Monmouth	18	17	63	c	19
Northampton	18	17	63	c	19
Northwich	18	17	63	c	19
Nottingham	18	17	63	c	19
Oldham	18	17	63	c	19
Orkney	18	17	63	c	19
Perth	18	17	63	c	19
Portsmouth	18	17	63	c	19
Reading	18	17	63	c	19
Sheffield	18	17	63	c	19
Southampton	18	17	63	c	19
Stirling	18	17	63	c	19
Stroud	18	17	63	c	19
Sunderland	18	17	63	c	19
Torquay	18	17	63	c	19
Warrington	18	17	63	c	19
Widnes	18	17	63	c	19
Worcester	18	17	63	c	19
Wrexham	18	17	63	c	19

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun sets: 5:34 am. Moon sets: 3:22 pm. Sun rises: 5:38 pm. Moon rises: 12:05 am.

New Moon August 4

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Preview: Six women make light of advancing years in *Growing Old Disgracefully* (BBC2, 7pm) Review: Lynne Truss is on the edge of her seat as *Murder One* approaches its conclusion. Page 43

Down the Tube

London's Underground once set an example for the world; to regain that role, its management must have the freedom to initiate and innovate. That is why today's strikers must not prevail. Page 15

Dole goes for growth

If Bob Dole can make a compelling case for the parallel reduction in both tax and spending, then his economic message may yet kick-start his stagnant presidential campaign. Page 15

Coming home

Whether it is Newcastle Brown in North Shields or Chateau Talbot in Tynemouth, Geordies should be raising a glass this week to their renaissance and the rover's return. Page 15

MISHA GLENNY

THE TIMES

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TODAY



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Edinburgh gets set for episode 50 of a cultural saga
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Fleet forced to ride the storm at Cowes
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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 7 1996

RK

Hays abandons bid for Christian Salvesen

By Sarah Cunningham

HAYS, the business services group led by Ronnie Frost, has abandoned its pursuit of Christian Salvesen, the distribution company, after an improved bid worth £1.15 billion was rejected yesterday by the Salvesen board.

Hays had raised its bid to 17 new Hays shares plus £20.40 cash for every 24 Salvesen shares, worth 390p per Salvesen share.

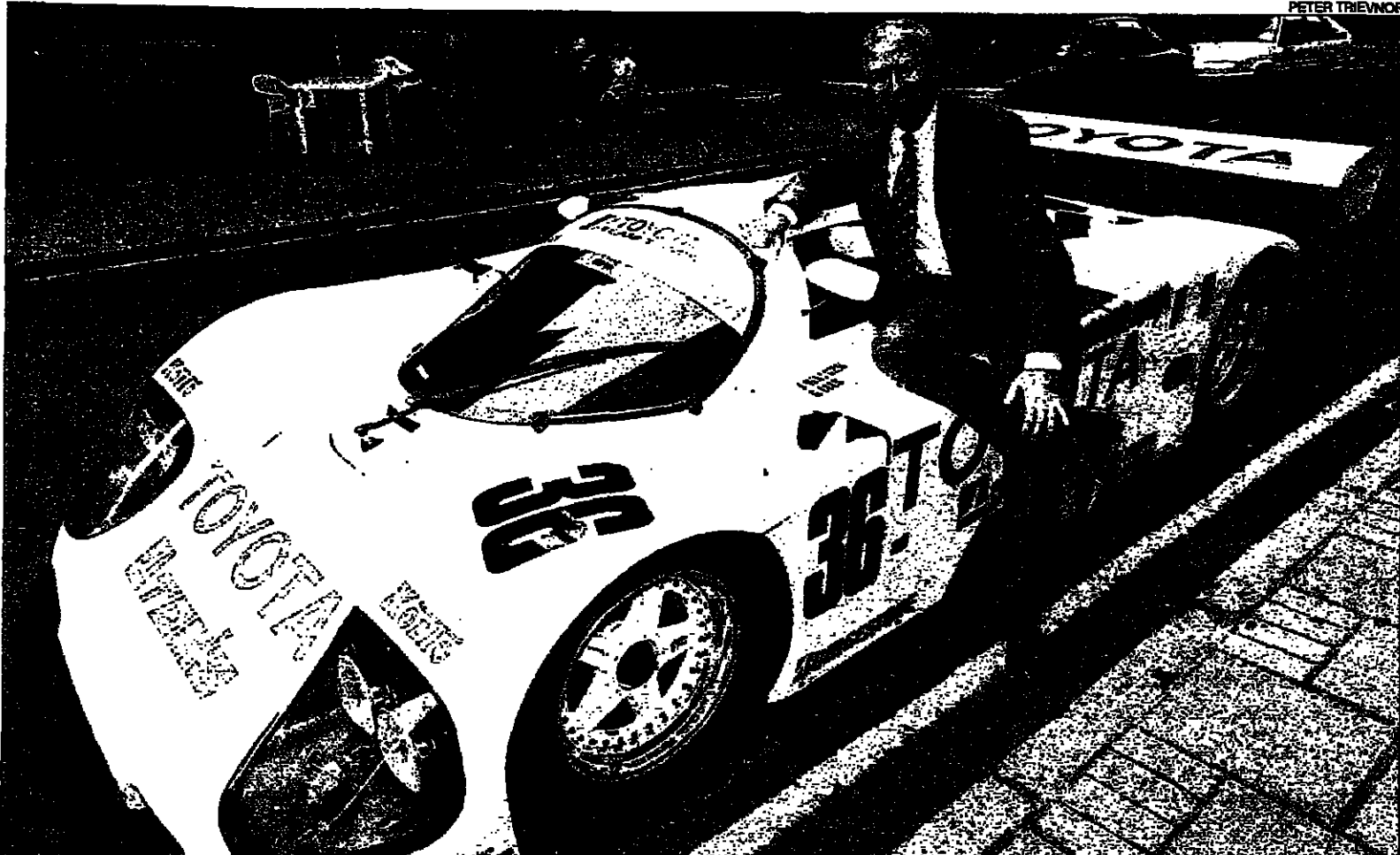
Mr Frost said "compelling business and strategic logic is not a reason for overpaying," and said he did not want to make a hostile bid. An initial proposal, at 370p a share, was rejected by the Salvesen board last week.

Salvesen said it saw no compelling industrial logic in putting the two companies together and said the price offered was not high enough. The company said it is now looking at ways of improving shareholder value. These include asset realisation, restructuring of the group's balance sheet together with a possible return of capital, and demerger options. Chris Masters, chief executive, said the board would have proposals to put to shareholders within the next few months.

Key to Hays's defeat was the 38 per cent stake in Christian Salvesen held by about 200 members of the Salvesen family. They remained united in their opposition to any loss of the company's independence. Salvesen shares dropped 46p, to 304p. Hays shares closed up 3p, at 435p.

Hays had maintained that the value of the proposed offer represented a premium of 48 per cent over the average price of Christian Salvesen shares over the month before speculation about a possible offer.

Pennington, page 25



Profits drive: Bob Seelert, chief executive of Cordiant, the advertising group, with a Le Mans Toyota racing car. Cordiant made profits of £15.5 million before tax in the six months to end June, compared with losses of £29.6 million in the first half of the previous year Page 25, Tempus 26

Barclays surprises City with £470m buy-back

By Robert Miller

BARCLAYS BANK caught the market on the hop by buying back £470 million of its own shares after announcing a 15 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £1.3 billion.

It was the third share buy-back, and the largest, in the past year and brings the total spent on the exercise to £960 million.

Barclays purchased 55 million shares at 85p yesterday, after a £306 million buy-back in February and £180 million last August.

Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays, which saw its operating profit jump 39 per cent to £1.2 billion, did not rule out the possibility of further buy-backs. Bank staff too will benefit from the increase in

profitability and Mr Taylor said a "substantial amount" had been set aside for profit sharing.

Barclays declared an interim dividend of 11.5p a share, compared with 9.5p in the same period last year, payable on October 3. Earnings per share rose 29 per cent to 55.3p, while operating expenses fell 2 per cent to £2.4 billion. Provisions for bad and doubtful debt were down 32 per cent to £148 million.

British personal banking made an operating profit of £363 million, compared with £351 million. Net interest income rose 4 per cent to £808 million, with higher levels of income derived from both savings and certain lending products. Commission income was up 3 per cent to £488 million, largely because of

increased credit card turnover and transaction volumes at Barclaycard.

Annual sales of unit trust personal equity plans rose almost 60 per cent. Operating profits from the bank's business sector fell £7 million to £382 million.

BZW, the investment banking arm of Barclays, clipped in with a 23 per cent increase in operating profits to 23 per cent, based on significantly higher income from trading activities and fee-based businesses.

BZW boosted fees by participating in a number of high-profile City deals in the six months to June 30, including Granada's takeover battle for Forte.

BZW Asset Management increased operating profits £5 million to £20 million. On the

international and private banking side of Barclays, operating profits were £129 million, compared with £97 million.

In mainland Europe a £12 million loss this time last year was turned into a £20 million profit and in Africa the bank reported "strong performances" in Botswana, Kenya and Zimbabwe.

Commenting on the results, Andrew Buxton, chairman of Barclays, said: "We believe that the policies we have put in place over the past few years are now clearly showing their worth."

"They are intended to reduce the group's vulnerability to external shocks and to provide a sustainable basis for the healthy development of our business."

John Bancroft, a negotiating

officer at Bifu, the banking, finance and insurance union, said: "Barclays has closed hundreds of branches forcing customers to travel miles to their nearest branch."

He continued: "It is time Barclays started listening to its staff and to what the customer really wants, rather than cutting jobs and branches to up the share price."

Pennington, page 25

Housebuilder to buy part of landmark Shell Centre

By Carl Mortished

SHELL has agreed the sale of part of the Shell Centre, its landmark office complex on the South Bank of the Thames, to a private housebuilder.

Galliard Homes is to buy the downstream building, a ten-storey office block with a basement and car parking near the Festival Hall. It plans to convert the building into flats.

The Shell Centre is next to County Hall. Galliard is selling the remaining flats in its redevelopment of the rear of the former headquarters of the Greater London Council.

The price is not being disclosed by the parties, but property industry rumour suggests a figure in excess of £20 million.

The building was marketed by Jones Lang Wootton and a shortlist of four to five builders, including Regalian Properties, bid for the site.

Galliard was unavailable for comment on the deal or the manner in which it financed the purchase of the 265,000 sq ft building.

It is believed that the building has a partner. Galliard teamed up with Frogmore Estates, a quoted developer, in the purchase of the County

Hall buildings for £17.5 million. The Shell Centre was built in 1957 with a working capacity for 6,000 people. However, its population peaked at 5,800 in the 1960s and since then staff in the London headquarters have declined to current levels of 2,000.

Shell is vacating its chemicals and coal division staff from the downstream building who will move to the main tower.

The Anglo-Dutch oil giant revealed big cuts in headquarters staff in both London and The Hague last year.

Court clears way for BCCI payout

By Robert Miller

A JUDGMENT in the High Court yesterday cleared the way for nearly 38,000 UK creditors of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), which crashed in 1991 with debts of \$10 billion, to receive their first long-awaited dividend payment shortly.

Sir Richard Scott, the Vice-Chancellor, gave directions that the release of funds from the \$1.55 billion paid over by the Sheikh of Abu Dhabi, BCCI's principal shareholder, was of "very considerable practical importance" to creditors.

The compensation payments to some 250,000 BCCI

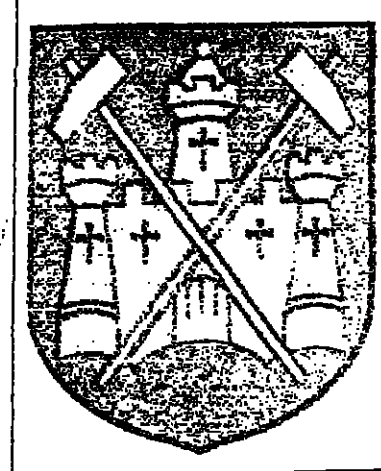
creditors worldwide have been held up over wrangles on whether the laws of Britain or Luxembourg, where BCCI was incorporated, should be applied in administering the payout. It is understood that Deloitte & Touche, the UK liquidators to BCCI, hope to make a first payment of approaching 20p in the pound.

Deloitte & Touche said: "We welcome the clarification that the judgment has brought. English creditors will be afforded the right of set-off in the circumstances of an ancillary liquidation, and will not be prejudiced by Luxembourg accounting rules."

Pennington, page 25

Hammering for fans with single share

By Jason Nisse



WHILE most football clubs go out of their way to encourage fans to become involved in the club, West Ham United is attempting to stop supporters from buying shares in the company that owns it.

The board of the Premier League club, based in London's East End, is proposing at its annual shareholders meeting on August 22, that holders of the shares in the company, also called West Ham United, will not be able to buy or sell in blocks of less than 100.

As stockbroker Ellis & Partners was quoting a price of £200 a share yesterday, a West Ham fan would have to pay £20,000 to buy a stake. "It

is an absolute outrage," said one shareholder. "If West Ham shares were traded on any recognised exchange this would not be allowed." The resolution is expected to succeed as the board controls 90 per cent of the club's shares.

The proposal says that holders of blocks of less than 100 would only be able to transfer them en masse and then only to one new owner. Terence Brown, West Ham's chairman, said the idea was to stop fans from buying individual shares as mementos. "We don't want 10,000 people owning one share and sticking them on the wall as a souvenir, with all the costs associated such as sending out an annual report or inviting them to the AGM

where they would have to be entertained."

According to Mr Brown, who said West Ham has no plans to float on the stock market, there has been an increasing trade in people selling individual shares. This led to an apparent rise to over £500 in West Ham's share price — so valuing the club at £50 million — before the price dropped back to current levels.

West Ham has found 146 shareholders who have just one share each. Mr Brown said West Ham was a family club and did not want to disadvantage anyone. But the cost of administration was becoming a burden.

Silence on holder of Pet City stake

By Jason Nisse

GILES CLARKE, the founder of Pet City, the animal superstores group, yesterday refused to disclose the identity of the beneficial owner of a 12.8 per cent stake in the company held in a trust administered by a former associate of the late Robert Maxwell.

The group announced that the holding has been transferred from two Channel Islands companies to a trust at the Rothschild family bank in Switzerland administered by Werner Keicher, a solicitor from Vaduz, Liechtenstein.

He was the trustee of the Maxwell Foundation, which was set up by the tycoon in 1970 as the holding company for his assets and continued to control the Maxwell publishing empire until it collapsed a month after M4r Maxwell's death in 1991.

He also controlled a series of Swiss trusts that were actively involved in supporting the share price of Maxwell Communication Corporation and Mirror Group Newspapers using money that had been taken from the Maxwell companies' pension funds.

Mr Clarke said that Dr Keicher was not connected to the beneficial owner of the shares, who is a wealthy investor based outside the UK who had not done business in Britain for 20 years.

Mr Clarke said: "This is part of the tax and inheritance management of the ultimate beneficiaries. I doubt if he knows who this Dr Keicher is. He may be the only lawyer in Vaduz for all I know."

Mr Clarke said this individual was a friend and he saw no reason to reveal his identity.

Pet City shares were floated on the Alternative Investment Market earlier this year at 300p and, after racing up to 410p, have fallen back to 385p.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FT-SE 100	3788.4	(+0.1)
Yield	4.11%	
FT-SE All share	1873.16	(+0.88)
Nikkei	20744.88	(-322.59)
New York		
Dow Jones	5654.31	(-19.87)
S&P Composite	658.62	(-1.61)
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	90 1/2%	(90%)
Yield	6.76%	(6.77%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Life long gilt		
future (Sep)	108 1/2	(108)
STERLING		
New York		
\$	1.5375*	(1.5450)
London		
\$	1.5375	(1.5450)
DM	2.2823	(2.2960)
FF	7.7675	(7.7750)
SFR	1.2640	(1.2657)
Yen	164.40	(164.60)
£ Index	84.0	(84.2)
DOLLAR		
London		
DM	1.4828*	(1.4813)
FF	5.0490*	(5.0305)
SFR	1.2048*	(1.2015)
Yen	106.00*	(106.50)
£ Index	96.0	(95.8)
Tokyo close Yen	106.65	
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Oct)	\$19.20	(\$19.30)
GOLD		
London close	\$388.45	(\$389.75)
* denotes midday trading price		

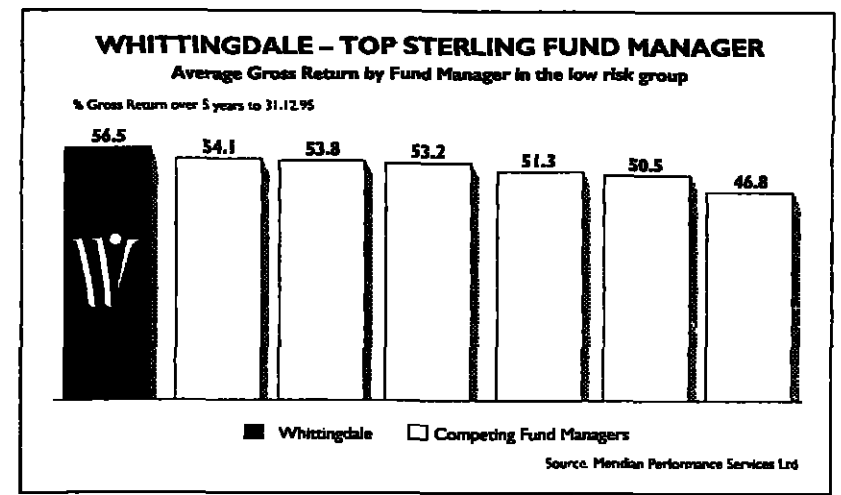
High cost

Zeneca, the pharmaceuticals and agricultural chemicals group, reported higher earnings but warned investors that the cost of launching products would put pressure on margins. The company also dismissed bid speculation. Page 25

Watchdog rules

The City's most senior watchdog unveiled new safeguards to protect more than £800 billion worth of assets held on behalf of investors. Page 24

CONSISTENT OUTPERFORMANCE



WHITTINGDALE MANAGING £1.5bn INSURANCE FUNDS

Whittingdale has been ranked the top sterling fund manager over 5 years for both low and medium risk funds — the two categories measured by Meridian's independent Investment Performance Survey.

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WHITTINGDALE
GILT-EDGED EXPERTS

Please remember past performance is not a guide to future returns.
Whittingdale Limited is regulated by IFSC.

Fraud cuts profits at Appleyard

Fraudulent accounting and reduced margins at Appleyard, the car dealer, brought about a 7 per cent fall to £4.6 million in first-half pre-tax profits.

John Aldin, Appleyard's finance director, said the group has still to decide whether to sue the auditors who failed to pick up the doctored results in 1994 and 1995. An interim dividend of 3.1p will be paid on September 19.

Home growth

Ashbourne is to become the UK's third largest nursing home operator after agreeing to buy nine homes for £141 million, adding a further 487 beds to its 2,663. Its shares rose 2p to 140p yesterday.

MGF winner

Demand for Rover's new MGF sports car has put Mayflower, which makes its body shell, ahead of City expectations. First-half pre-tax profits increased by 62 per cent to £10.2 million. A dividend of 0.75p (0.67p) will be paid on November 15.

Lauda falls

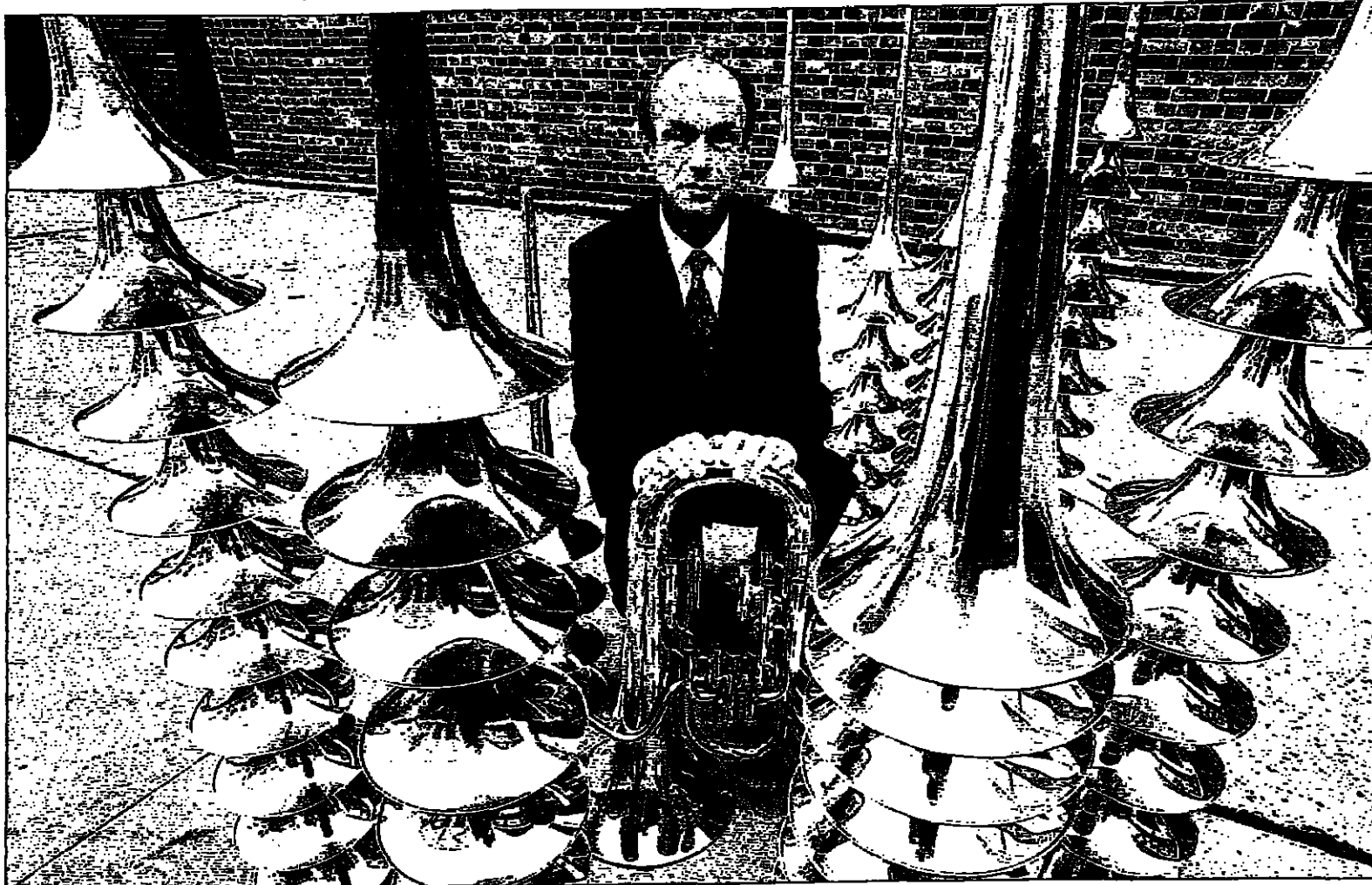
Lauda Air, the Austrian airline, yesterday reported increased pre-tax losses for the first half of 1996 of 165.6 million schillings (£10.3 million), up from 74 million a year earlier.

Cisco buys

Cisco Systems, the leading US computer network group, is to buy Nashoba Networks for shares worth \$100 million for its switching technology, used to connect desktop computers to mainframes.

M-S sells

Menvier-Swain, the electrical equipment company, has sold the US arm of Scantronic, the security alarms business, for £2.4 million.



Richard Holland, chief executive of Boosey and Hawkes, saw the company's shares rise 53p to close at 718p as analysts upgraded forecasts

SIB sets tougher rules for custody of assets

By ROBERT MILLER

THE City's most senior watchdog yesterday unveiled new safeguards to protect more than £800 billion worth of assets held on behalf of investors.

In future, under the tough new rules on the custody of assets, published by the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), investors who lose money through fraud or theft, or even straightforward carelessness, will now be covered by the official Investors Compensation Scheme.

According to the SIB, the top ten custodian banks in the United Kingdom between them hold domestic assets worth £700 billion.

Increasingly fund managers and others who look after investments have appointed third parties to look after the administration and paperwork. Until now, however, the safe custody of these investments and the related paperwork have not come directly under the umbrella of the Financial Services Act.

The new SIB custody standards, which were introduced partly in response to the Maxwell pension fund losses and more recently the £830 million Barings crash, set out in clear detail the responsibilities of custodians. In turn the fund managers who appoint third-party administrators

will also be responsible for ensuring that the custodians are authorised to conduct such business.

Safe-deposit boxes containing so-called non-investments such as diamonds, cash, property deeds or gold will not be covered by the SIB rules.

The SIB said yesterday that there would also be "identification and periodic checking of customers' investments". The watchdog, which will have the new rules in place by early next year after an amendment to the Financial Services Act has been put through Parliament, said the standards had been "fine-tuned" to take account of the

introduction of Crest, the new electronic share settlement system.

The current frontline watchdogs such as Imro (the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation) and the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA) will ensure that members comply with the four new custody standards.

Some City fund managers have criticised the new standards as being another costly exercise in regulation. However, the watchdog said yesterday: "In the SIB's judgment, as these standards reflect existing good practice, the additional costs of compliance are not likely to be significant."

Boosey buy hits right note in the City

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

BOOSEY and Hawkes, the musical instrument manufacturer, yesterday bought Rico International, a reed maker in the US, for £18 million.

The deal met with City approval and shares in the company rose 53p to close at 718p as analysts upgraded profit forecasts.

Rico, which is based in California, has about 75 per cent of the US and 50 per cent of the world reed market. It owns and operates its own cane plantations in France, Argentina and California. Last year, it reported profits of £17.2 million on turnover of £11 million.

Boosey said that the deal would be immediately earnings enhancing. Mr Richard Holland, chief executive, said the long-term aim was to expand Rico operations in Europe and the Far East using Boosey's existing distribution network.

Boosey is paying a cash sum for Rico, with the maximum price of £17.9 million dependent on Rico meeting a pre-tax profit target of £1.8 million for the year to the end of June. Boosey's gearing will rise to 40 per cent after the acquisition.

Boosey is the third largest musical instrument maker in the world. It also has a strong music publishing arm, owning the rights to many twentieth-century composers. Carl Fischer, the US publishing company, owns almost 50 per cent of Boosey.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Small rise in June building orders

NEW UK construction orders rose slightly in June, hinting at some signs of life in the struggling sector. Total orders reached £1.73 billion, boosted by a small number of large infrastructure and private sector projects, according to figures compiled by the Department of the Environment. Orders for the three months to June 30 increased by 5 per cent over the same period last year, although they fell by 2 per cent on the previous quarter. Private housing orders in June fell to their lowest since December 1992.

UK leading indicators for July, published by the Office for National Statistics yesterday, continue to paint a contradictory picture of the outlook for the economy. The longer leading index rose to 96.7 from 95.7, the seventh consecutive monthly rise.

New car registrations rose year on year by 17 per cent in July, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders says.

Rental income aids CSC

A SHARP rise in rental income helped Capital Shopping Centres, the retail property company, to a 25 per cent increase in its interim pre-tax profit to £27.8 million. In the six months to June 30, net property income rose 84 per cent to £38.2 million. Stripping out the MetroCentre, which it bought in October last year, the increase was 43 per cent, to £29.7 million. The company is paying an interim dividend of 3.75p, up 7 per cent. CSC estimates that its net asset value has risen 19p a share to 274p. It boosted its valuation of its assets by 6 per cent, to £75 million.

Titan sets out case

COLIN ROSS-MUNRO, QC, for Titan International, an American limited liability company, and a successor to an international money-circulation scheme to which people pay £3,000 to join and then persuade others to sign up, responded to fears that the last people into the scheme would lose their money by telling the High Court yesterday that "every year 800,000 people reach the age of 18 and could become a member". The DTI has applied to the courts to wind-up Titan International and Titan International Incorporated. The hearing continues.

RJB mine closure threat

RJB, the coal company that bought British Coal's more lucrative mines, is today expected to close a Welsh colliery with the loss of 300 jobs. RJB management will this morning hold meetings with union leaders and the workforce at Point of Ayr, a coastal mine near Prestatyn. But a reprieve for the colliery, which has fallen short of production targets, is thought unlikely. Point of Ayr is one of the UK's oldest collieries and has been mining coal from beneath the Dee estuary for more than 130 years.

Bermo to open factory

A HUNDRED more jobs will be created in Scotland's Silicon Glen when Bermo of the US opens a £4 million electronic components factory in Glenrothes, Fife. Bermo, which employs 350 in America, was attracted to Fife by Locate in Scotland, the inward investment agency. The new factory will open in January 1997 and the jobs will be created over the next two years. The factory, Bermo's first in Europe, is intended to meet growing demand from customers in Scotland, Ireland and elsewhere in Europe.

Benson losses grow

BENSON, the troubled specialist engineering group, reported a pre-tax loss of £4.94 million for the year ended May 31, compared to a loss of £301,000 the previous year. It will not pay any dividend — last year it paid only an interim of 0.12p. Turnover rose to £44.3 million, compared to £38.6 million in 1994-95. David Reed, who became executive chairman at the end of last year, said that to try to return to profitability the company is to restructure into three divisions: environmental, metal pressings and other activities.

Learmonth reshuffle

LEARMONTH & BURCHETT, the USM-quoted information technology consultancy, yesterday replaced both its chief executive and chairman. John Bantleman resigned as chief executive, and will be succeeded by Michael Bennett, a former senior executive with Dell Computer, whose last job was as president of Summagraphics, a computer-aided design firm in Texas. Gerald Christopher will take over as chairman from Rainer Burchett, who will remain as a director. Learmonth & Burchett's shares fell 5p to 120p.

Molecular lessens loss

SHARES in Oxford Molecular rose by 14p, to 307p, after the pharmaceuticals software company reported a pre-tax loss of £90,000, or 1.3p a share, for the half year to June 30, against a loss of £2.1 million, or 4.2p a share, in the previous period. The company, floated two years ago, said the second-half outlook was "promising", with signs of success on new drug-design contracts. In spring, Oxford Molecular agreed a \$10 million collaborative research programme, its biggest, with Yamanouchi Pharmaceutical, Japan's third-largest drugs company.

Trust sells bank stake

FLEMING MERCANTILE, the investment trust, has sold its entire 7.8 per cent holding in Leopold Joseph to the directors of the private banking group. Robin Herbert, chairman of Leopold Joseph, and his family's interests bought 184,500 shares, to increase his shareholding to 18.95 per cent. Michael Quicke, chief executive, and Emanuel Davidson, also added to their stakes. Another 149,000 shares were bought by Leopold Joseph's employee benefit trust to satisfy future share option entitlements.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.09	1.93
Austria Sch	17.14	15.84
Belgium Fr	20.82	45.92
Canada S	2.22	2.07
Cyprus Cyp£	0.744	0.689
Denmark Kr	8.43	8.63
Finland Mk	7.51	6.88
France Fr	2.45	7.54
Germany DM	2.45	2.24
Greece Dr	381	356
Hong Kong \$	111.50	111.50
Iceland Kr	113	93
Ireland P	1.01	0.93
Israel Sh	1.41	4.40
Italy Lit	2448	2292
Japan Yen	178.90	162.90
Norway Kr	8.92	8.57
Netherlands Gld	2.724	2.494
New Zealand \$	2.40	2.18
Norway Kr	10.44	9.84
Portugal Esc	246.50	228.00
S Africa R	7.49	6.99
Spain Ptas	201.00	188.00
Sweden Kr	10.00	10.00
Switzerland Fr	132.70	124.70
Turkey Lira	1.843	1.513
USA \$		

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Meggitt wins body armour battle

By MORAG PRESTON



Dressed for safer policing

MEGGITT, the engineering group, has outstripped tough competition to win the multi-million pound contract to provide 16,000 sets of body armour to the Metropolitan Police.

The deal, said to be worth at least £4 million, comes after two years of detailed design work to come up with a safety vest that will be worn by police across the UK.

Thirty companies bid for the contract, but Meggitt's design proved to be the lightest, most

comfortable, and safest. Made from a composite material, Meggitt refuses to disclose the ingredients that makes the armour both bullet and stab-proof.

The vest, which weighs 4lbs, will be available in more than 60 different sizes, to fit neatly underneath current uniforms. The armour fits both male and female body shapes. Meggitt said: "It's just like buying an off-the-peg suit from M&S — you find the size that fits you." In 12 years, Meggitt, which

began as a machine tool company, has increased its turnover from £3 million to £350 million last year. The police contract will lead to extra staff — up to 40 — being employed at its West Midlands factory in Dudley. Production will begin immediately.

Eric Lewis, managing director of Meggitt Aerospace Components, the sole UK supplier to the Ariane space programme, is confident that the company has found the "key" to future success.

Yorks Chemicals lifts profits 16%

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

EFFORTS by Yorkshire Chemicals to combat trading problems endemic in the chemicals industry showed signs of success yesterday when the Leeds group lifted interim pre-tax profits by 16 per cent.

Against an industry beset with destocking and slim margins, Yorkshire amalgamated its European specialty divisions last year. This move produced savings of £1.5 million — higher than analysts had anticipated.

Yorkshire turned in pre-tax profits of £6.8 million compared with £5.9 million in the first half of 1995. Sales were 11.5 per cent ahead of the second half of last year and 6.8 per cent above those of the

same period. Despite continuing tough conditions in America and Australia, the company said it was hopeful of second-half figures to match those of the first half. In the US sales fell 4 per cent on the same period last year. The company blamed weak demand and vigorous competition.

Yorkshire is in the final stages of expanding capacity and re-equipping parts of its business. In the first six months it spent £600,000 on expansion projects, while depreciation in the period amounted to £2.4 million. The interim dividend, payable October 4, was lifted 5.45 per cent to 2.9p. The share price rose 27p to 275p.

Exxon's \$140m North Sea project approved by DTI

By CARL MORTISHED

EXXON Corporation, the world's largest oil company, has won approval from the Department of Trade and Industry for a \$140 million North Sea project.

The project will involve the development of two new satellite fields, Gannet E and Gannet F, with combined recoverable oil reserves of some 42 million barrels and a peak production rate of about 20,000 barrels a day.

Both fields are located about nine miles from the existing Gannet A platform and are about five miles apart. Exxon Exploration and Production, Exxon's UK affiliate, has a 50 per cent interest in the Gannet field area. Shell UK Exploration and Production has the other 50 per cent, and is operator of the field.

The development involves the use of an electrical submersible pump in a remote, subsea production well in the Gannet E satellite field. Such pumps have been used before, but have not been installed and controlled so far from the host platform, said Exxon.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

Public Notice
MERCHANT SHIPPING (ACCIDENT REPORTING AND INVESTIGATION) REGULATIONS 1994
Public Notice is hereby given that pursuant to regulation 6(4) of the Merchant Shipping (Accident Reporting and Investigation) Regulations 1994, the Chief Inspector of Marine Accidents has ordered an Inspector's Inquiry into the accident resulting in three fatalities in the first handling area on board the deep sea freezer trawler ATLANTIC PRINCESS off the West African coast on 25 July 1996. Any persons who desire to make representations to the Inspector which would assist him in determining the circumstances and causes of the accident should write to the Inspector at the following address, no later than 14 days from the date of publication of this Notice:
Marine Accident Investigation Branch
Department of Transport
57 Brunswick Place
Southampton, Hampshire SO15 2AN

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

CHARITY COLLECTION
Charity Collection for the Royal Society for the Blind, 1996. The Commission has approved the collection of the Royal Society for the Blind, 1996. A copy of the draft Scheme can be obtained from the Royal Society for the Blind, 1996. The Commission has approved the collection of the Royal Society for the Blind, 1996. A copy of the draft Scheme can be obtained from the Royal Society for the Blind, 1996. The Commission has approved the collection of the Royal Society for the Blind, 1996. A copy of the draft Scheme can be obtained from the Royal Society for the Blind, 1996.

LEGAL NOTICES

THE INVOICING ACT 1996
In the High Court of Justice
in Bankruptcy
Re: **THE INVOICING ACT 1996**
Notice is hereby given that the Invoicing Act 1996, which provides for the winding up of the company, has been approved by the court. The company is hereby ordered to be wound up. The court has appointed a liquidator to manage the company's affairs. The liquidator's name and address are as follows: [Name], [Address].

LEGAL NOTICES

FIRST CLASS BOWERS
(CIVILIAN AVIATION) LIMITED
Notice is hereby given that the company, First Class Bowers (Civilian Aviation) Limited, has been approved by the court for winding up. The court has appointed a liquidator to manage the company's affairs. The liquidator's name and address are as follows: [Name], [Address].

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AKZO NOBEL

The Board of Management of Akzo Nobel N.V. — formerly Akzo N.V. — announces that on August 7, 1996, the results for the first half year of 1996 were published. Copies of this report may be obtained from the London Paying Agents:

Barclays Global Securities Services
8 Angel Court
Throgmorton Street
London EC2R 7HT
and
Midland Securities Service
Paying Agency Section
5th Floor
Mariner House
Peppys Street
London EC3N 4DA
or from the offices of
Akzo Nobel N.V.
Velperweg 76
P.O. Box 9300
6800 SB Arnhem
the Netherlands
A summary of the results will be presented in the August 16 issue of this paper.
Arnhem, August 7, 1996
Akzo Nobel N.V.,
the Netherlands

Agroch
Zeneca

Millennium
hunt for acc

Rivals seek to

□ Barclays closures seen as inevitable □ Caveat emptor the only rule □ Uncertainties for South West Water

Root of the branch problem

EMOTIONS will always run high when a bank closes a local branch, no matter how long since the account holders last walked through the door. This is why the main clearers tend to send separate messages to the City and to outside observers.

Barclays is the latest to show the benefits in profits terms of disposing of those chunks of the network the banks believe have been superseded by telephone banking. Yet to outsiders Barclays murmurs that closures so far have been limited to a few declining suburban branches, and no more are expected.

The City believes more will have to go, a point rubbed in by Sir Brian Pitman, chief executive of Lloyds TSB. More outspoken, as ever, than the rest, he kicked off the interim reporting season from the banks this year with a warning to this effect.

The disappearance of so many branches across the nation is as sad, and as inevitable, as the closure of all those thousands of greengrocers, butchers and hardware stores put out of business by the grocery chains and DIY sheds. But the banks themselves clearly believe there is no profit to be derived from keeping them open. If one thought it could steal a march on its rivals by keeping its network intact, by poaching their account holders or ensuring greater loyalty

among its own, that bank would promptly rebrand itself the Friendly Bank, or whatever other nonsense the marketing team came up with, and do so.

Their duty to shareholders is to shut where they can, and take the flak from unions and customers. They have no more moral duty to stay open than those small greengrocers should be forced to drive their families into penury by continuing to compete against J Sainsbury.

Barclays has shut more than 500 branches over the past 15 years. The bank is more interested these days in its new on-line banking service via the Internet, however technophobes may shudder, and its communications satellite perched above the Indian Ocean. Operating profits from personal banking grew by just 3 per cent in the first half and contributed less than 30 per cent of all profits after bad debt, down 10 percentage points since last time. The talk yesterday was more about the need for the investment banking side, BZW, to take risks than about the further closures. In the City, that debate is now over.

The banking sector is splitting down the middle, a point explicitly made by the former building societies such as the Halifax and the Alliance & Leicester who arrive next year. They want the stock market to recognise this with a distinction between themselves and the Lloyds TSB as retail banks offering a range of personal financial services and the truly international players such as HSBC, owner of the Midland, and Barclays.

These will always want a presence on the high street, but their smaller brethren will take an increasing share of the country's domestic banking needs.

Hammering home the old lesson

YOU pay your money and you take your choice, whether you are investing in a company 40 per cent owned by one family shareholder or a football club that does not enjoy the facility of a stock market quote. This old lesson can be learnt yet again from the examples of Christian Salvesen and West Ham United.



Salvesen is the more straightforward case, being covered by the full rigour of the listing rules. The company is 40 per cent owned by the Salvesen brood, the individual family members who are shareholders and have a say in the running of the company numbering 200 or more.

This is an insuperable obstacle to any hostile bidder, as Ronnie Frost of Hays Group has just discovered. Mr Frost harbours a strong desire to see the company he created in the FT-SE 100 index, and the purchase of Salvesen, the biggest and most obvious target in industrial services, should have done the trick. Hays's willingness to do a deal was forced out of the company's fortnight ago after rumours

spread. Mr Frost had hoped to tempt away family members who had become disenchanted with the slow progress at Salvesen, whose management has had to contend with the dead hand of that family block holding in forcing the pace of change.

This would have been a sufficient springboard for a bid at 390p a share. But they are a clannish lot, the Salvesens, and the necessary minority support was not there. Hays withdrew, and the Salvesen share price plunged to £3. There is now pressure on the management to improve matters, by demerger or whatever, and their position will have been strengthened against the family. If further progress is blocked, institutional shareholders will vote with their feet, and the shares will plunge.

Now to West Ham. The football club is changing its articles of association to limit the number of fans who can be on the register at any given time. They will only be able to transfer their tiny holdings among themselves. For a quoted company it would be iniquitous and illegal. For West Ham it is not. Football

clubs have never been amenable to the normal rules of investment, no matter what fortunes have been made on a handful.

Westward ho-hum for water bidders

WESSEX and Severn Trent are both vying for the hand of South West Water. Yet SWW shares, at 710p, are way behind the £10.53 at which Southern trades on Scottish Power's bid, let alone Northumbrian's take-out. Water bids are not like other bids. No price is named until a compulsory inquiry by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and haggling with Ofwat.

Things also have a way of going wrong for South West. Yesterday, it faced county court charges that seek to blame an SWW treatment works for an outbreak of cryptosporidium that made 500 customers ill a year ago and led to thousands boiling water for four weeks. Severn Trent has just been fined £175,000 for killing 35,000 Welsh fish. But dead fish cannot sue. At SWW's request, the case

was adjourned until September 17. It should therefore make headlines just in time for the MMC report on both putative bids, which is due to go to the President of the Board of Trade on September 27. He will then decide if one or both suitors can negotiate customer price cuts with Ofwat and mount a real bid.

These permutations, including the court case and Ofwat's favours, which are unlikely to embrace Severn Trent, make the outcome as uncertain as supplies have sometimes been. No wonder the City is cautious.

In to lunch

THERE is never a shortage of silly and spurious surveys bemoaning one social evil or another. But the latest takes a serious matter and trivialises it. Too many people, it is claimed, eat lunch at their desks, or not at all. The "cost" to business — there is always a cost quoted, however daft the methodology used to calculate it — is £32 million, and there is the usual reference to people's sex lives suffering to catch the eye of the press. Many office staff are indeed working too hard, and many more are not working at all. It is the desire of the former not to slip into the latter category that keeps them munching away at their desks.

Agrochemicals help Zeneca's 21% advance

BY ERIC REGULY

ZENECA, the pharmaceuticals and agricultural chemicals group, has reported sharply higher earnings but has given warning that the cost of launching new products will continue to put pressure on profit margins.

The company also dismissed speculation that it is in merger talks and said that it intended to pursue an independent course. Sir David Barnes, the chief executive, said: "We have very strong organic growth prospects ahead of us. All these merger rumours are irritating at times verging on the irresponsible."

The outlook for profit margins and Sir David's insistence that no takeover deal is in prospect pushed Zeneca

shares down by 20p, to £14.51. Rumours of a takeover or a merger have sent the shares as high as £14.74 this year, against their low of £10.90.

Zeneca reported pre-tax profits of £610 million, or 42.9p a share, in the half year to June 30, up 21 per cent from the £506 million, or 35.8p a share, earned in the same period last year. Turnover rose by 16 per cent, to £2.94 billion. The interim dividend, due on November 7, rises by 11 per cent, to 12.5p.

The profits were at the top end of analysts' forecasts, which ranged from £575 million to £610 million.

Sir David said that the earnings increase was due to strong volume growth from both established and new

drugs, and a combination of volume growth and price rises in the large agrochemicals division. Operating profits from agrochemicals — herbicides, pesticides and fungicides — rose by 22 per cent, to £205 million, on sales of £1.02 billion, up by 17 per cent.

Agrochemicals are performing well because they have better scope for price increases. Profits from pharmaceuticals, by contrast, are almost entirely dependent on extra sales because of flat or declining health care budgets around the world. Zeneca was unable to raise its drug prices in any major market except Italy. In Japan, they fell by 11 per cent, including effects of exchange rates.

The development and

launch costs of new products reduced operating profit margins in the pharmaceuticals division from 33.3 per cent to 31.7 per cent. John Mayo, the finance director, said that the forthcoming launches of products such as Accolate, an asthma treatment, and Kadian, an anti-cancer drug, would boost costs in the second half.

As a result, Mr Mayo expects the division to finish the year with a 30 per cent profit margin.

"We are happy to live with this temporary reduction in margin to ensure the quickest possible development, launch and roll-out of our new products," he said.

Tempus, page 26

Cordiant's £15.5m beats expectations

BY JASON NISSE

CORDIANT, the advertising group in the process of hauling itself out of trouble, yesterday revealed it owns or leases 100,000 sq ft of office space it does not need.

The company set aside another £8.2 million of provisions to cover the cost of moving out of one floor of its New York office complex at 375 Hudson Street in its figures for the six months to the June 30. This comes on top of more than £120 million of provisions set aside to deal with the group's under-utilised and over-priced offices.

Bob Seelert, Cordiant's chief executive, said the main problems were to do with New York and the building at Berkeley Square in London's West End, occupied as the group's headquarters when Maurice Saatchi was chairman. He said most of what

could be sublet is being sublet, but some of the Berkeley Square offices were unusable.

Cordiant has also had to provide £8.3 million to end an overly generous pension scheme in the US, but received an exceptional profit of £17.5 million for the sale of Draft Direct, a direct selling agency.

These combined to leave the group with pre-tax profits of £15.5 million, compared with a loss of £29.6 million, and above the City's expectation. Earnings per share were 2p (12.9p loss), and, although there is no dividend, Mr Seelert promised one would be paid at the end of this year.

Lorna Tibbani, media analyst at Panmure Gordon, the broker, is predicting profits of £41 million for the year.

Tempus, page 26

BP increases dividend 18%

BY CARL MORTSHED

BRITISH Petroleum has raised its quarterly dividend 18 per cent to 5p per share after a record half year in which profits rose 23 per cent to £1.28 billion.

Sir David Simon, chairman, said: "It is the fourth year in a rolling quarterly period that we have achieved continuous improvement. We have the option and resources of delivering sustained growth."

BP's exploration and production business produced 5 per cent more oil and gas in the first half, with prices averaging \$19 per barrel.

The results reflected \$300 million of performance improvements. John Browne, chief executive, said that BP had developments coming on stream in Britain and the Gulf of Mexico that would deliver a further 350,000 barrels per day, while new opportunities identified in Alaska, the Gulf

of Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, West Africa and Australia could add a further 800,000 barrels.

BP said that it had reached its dividend target of paying out 50 per cent of earnings taking into account the oil price cycle. Second-quarter profit before exceptional items was £648 million, compared with £519 million in 1995. Better margins helped to raise half-year refining and marketing profits from £176 million to £365 million in the second half, but chemicals fell from £502 million to £242 million.

BP suffered a write-off of £50 million on the sale of an office building in Cleveland, Ohio. BP's net debt has fallen further to \$6.7 billion after a net cash inflow in the second quarter of £223 million.

Tempus, page 26

Millennium goes on the hunt for acquisitions

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

MILLENNIUM and Copthorne, the hotel company, said yesterday that it was looking for acquisitions, although it would not be entering the bidding war for Forte assets being sold by Granada.

Edouard Gremlich, chief executive, said that the company was actively looking at opportunities in the UK, continental Europe and North America. The company, which owns the Gloucester and Chelsea hotels in London, has £24 million in cash and access to credit to help to finance expansion.

Millennium unveiled its first results since floating in April, with half-year profits rising 53 per cent to £15 million. Turnover rose 11 per cent to £34 million, while yield per available room improved 10 per cent and room rates increased 12 per cent to £76.63.

Mr Gremlich said that current trading was healthy, adding that the company's performance in July was ahead of last year.

The improvement followed a strong trading performance from Millennium's London hotels, where occupancy rates averaged 78.9 per cent even though three of four hotels have been undergoing refurbishment. Occupancy rates in New York also improved to 75 per cent. But the performance in Europe continued to suffer, with the combined occupancy level falling nearly 10 points to 58.5 per cent.

A dividend of 0.7p is payable on September 20.



Edouard Gremlich, left, and David Cook, finance chief

Sainsbury's £39m deal lifts stake in Giant Food

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

J SAINSBURY has spent \$62 million (£39.7 million) on a further two million shares in Giant Food, bought from the estate of the US food retailer's late co-founder, Israel Cohen.

The investment, which the companies said was to help with Israel Cohen's executors' tax-planning, revived speculation that Sainsbury has its eye on eventually taking full control of Giant Food.

"It is a statement of intent," one analyst said. Such a deal would cost Sainsbury, which bought its initial stake in 1994, well over £1 billion. A spokeswoman for Sainsbury said that the company would not comment on its plans.

The purchase of the non-voting stock lifts Sainsbury's stake in the total equity of Giant Food from 16.7 per cent to 19.9 per cent. Its stake in the voting shares remains at 50 per cent.

Mr Cohen, who died in November last year, transferred his 50 per cent holding in Giant Food to the 1224 Corporation. According to a statement from the executors yesterday, the corporation cannot sell its voting stock unless each holder of non-voting stock is offered the same price. This means that any bidder for the company cannot take control by buying only voting shares.

Management already has an interest in European privatisation via the Mercury European Privatisation Investment Trust. Other interested parties might be Hermes Pensions Fund Management Ltd and the National Coal Board Pension Fund.

Fund managers have until August 19 to make restructuring proposals. The race to take control of Kepit was prompted by an announcement on July 31 by TR European Growth Trust (Treg), which offered to liquidate Kepit. Kepit's managers, Kleinwort Benson Investment Management, responded with an offer to unite the trust to eliminate the discount.

Rivals seek to reorganise Kepit

BY MARIANNE CURRIE

PROPOSALS for a share buy-back in the Kleinwort European Privatisation Trust (Kepit) were suspended yesterday while the board considered bids from rival fund managers to reorganise the trust.

Shane Ross, chairman of the £500 million trust's independent board, told an extraordinary meeting of shareholders that Kepit had received seven approaches to restructure the fund.

The EGM had originally been called to allow shareholders to approve the board's plans to buy-back 60 per cent of shares.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Lamb wants ComputerAge

HAPLESS *Sunday Business* is up for sale, and John Lamb, editor of *ComputerAge*, which slots inside the weekly, is negotiating to buy the IT section. Lamb, 44, former editor of *Computer Weekly*, is selling his life insurance policies to pay for the section in *Sunday Business* that he edits. The agreement, that is being made through Royce Peel Green, the accountancy firm acting as the administrator for *Sunday Newspapers*, will include the continued distribution of the IT supplement within the business weekly. Lamb says that he will continue to work from the newspaper's London offices, and is on the lookout for freelance writers.

Team effort

HOWARD DAVIES needed family help when he turned out for the Bank of England team this week. Suffering from a bad back, the Deputy Governor was unable to field or bowl for the Bank's team during Monday's cricket match against Fleet Street. Instead, Davies recruited his 11-year-old son George, who proved to be a whizz as a fielder, but a notable flop at the crease. In spite of his injuries, Davies scored the winning runs and secured the Bank's narrow victory of 173 runs for five. Unfortunately, the Davies family couldn't stay for the celebratory dinner — they had to be back at home to meet money from work.



"In non-technical terms sir, it's money in the bank"

Sleek moggies

PAMELA TAYLOR, chief executive of the Water Companies Association, is making friends in the feline world. Fed-up with the bad press aimed at "fat cats", Taylor sent out a "sleek moggies" circular to those water supply companies that have always been in the private sector, in a bid to gauge salaries among senior management. Taylor, who says her own moggy (called Choopy after the Catalan slang for "vivacious") is "slim and small", was delighted with the results of the survey. The overwhelming response was between £60,000 and £120,000.

Given the bird

SHAME on those journalists who have agreed to join the shooting party from Scottish Life International. So far, 24 kites have accepted SLI's invitation to celebrate the Glorious Twelfth with a clay pigeon shoot and a slap-up lunch at The Royal Berkshire Club. Bird-loving readers will, of course, remember that SLI sent out 72 invitations to its first product launch and jamboree, each one enclosed with a racing pigeon.

A TIMELY reminder from Barclays arrives on my desk — "Make Temporary Staff An Asset". Among the tips to make sure things run smoothly, Barclays counsels on how to "reduce the margin for error", "check your tax situation", and "watch your legal liabilities". All sound advice from the bank that has shed about 1,900 jobs this year.

MORAG PRESTON

Rockwell's return from space includes a profitable landing

Giles Whittell on the deal that will provide Boeing with a vital stake in the future of space technology

Donald Beall, chairman and CEO of Rockwell International, once had the last word in desk-top toys — he could point to his models of an Apollo command module, the space shuttle and the mighty B-1 bomber and say: "My firm made all these."

A visitor to Beall's office last year noted that the models had been relegated to the top shelf of a bookcase; they may well be in storage now. Last week's purchase by Boeing of Rockwell's defence and space division ended an era of profit and renown, followed by a crushing downturn, that was remarkable even by the roller-coaster standards of the US aerospace industry.

As NASA's top contractor for more than 30 years, Rockwell and its lab-coated technicians were synonymous in engineering circles with the prodigious know-how that put Americans on the Moon. Its blue logo is still almost as visible as NASA's on shuttle launch pads. As builder of the B-1 Lancer, the free world's last dedicated nuclear bomber, the company had its own vast hangars within the controlled perimeter of Edwards Air Force Base, in the Mojave Desert.

Rockwell now makes most of its money by selling modems and vehicle parts. The glamour of fighting the Cold War has gone, but the company's deal with Boeing, valued at \$3.2 billion, is an important vindication of Mr Beall's approach to the agencies of defence conversion. Instead of turning swords directly into ploughshares he has sold off the company's best-known assets after a decade spent quietly buying up profitable civilian ones — notably Allen Bradley, the industrial automation firm.

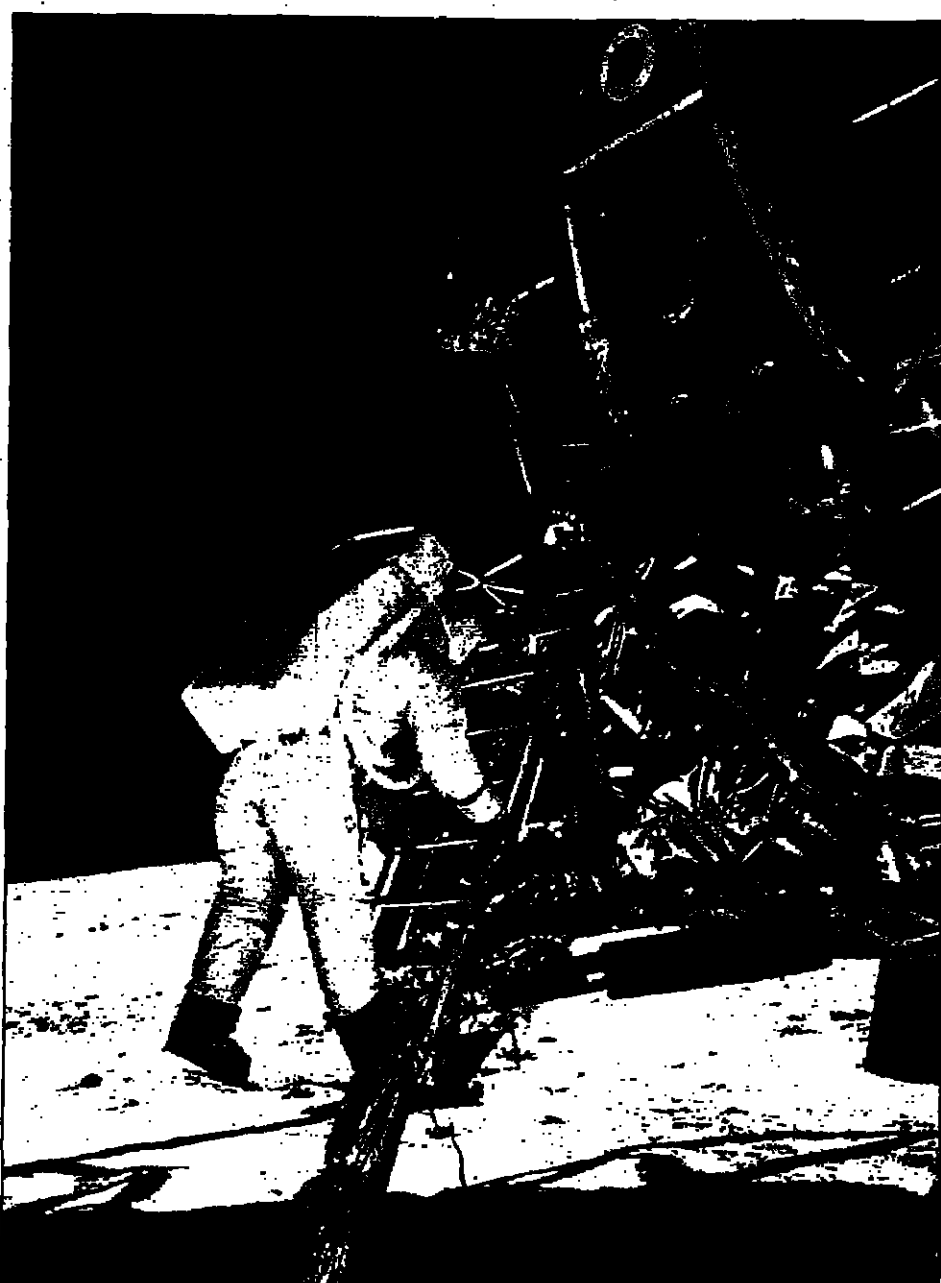
In MBA-speak, Beall has managed to diversify and reposition his company with virtually no net loss of revenue.

The deal also marks something of a new dawn for Boeing. The Seattle giant, sensing cluttered commercial aviation markets over the next 20 years, is looking for growth quite literally in outer space. In the meantime, it has promised Rockwell's employees that job losses will be "minimal".

Mr Beall called his big sale "an historic step in the continuing transformation of Rockwell". His company has certainly survived by changing its spots. Formed in 1953 as a Midwest car components group, it did not move into aviation until 14 years later when it bought North American Aviation, which made the legendary Mustang fighter during the Second World War.

That merger proved inspired. Joining the likes of Lockheed, Northrop and McDonnell-Douglas in the Southern Californian sun, Rockwell was part of the extraordinary boom that transformed Los Angeles from a place of orange groves and film studios into an industrial megalopolis.

"Southern California is, in many respects, a creation of the Pentagon," Allen Scott of



The first Moon landing in 1969, with which Rockwell will be forever associated

the University of California said, as the defence crash began to bottom out two years ago. By taking on huge workforces at generous wages, the big contractors and their one major client — the US Government — had indirectly funded the building of entire suburbs, freeway systems and universities.

It was not by chance, nor for love of surfing, that in 1961 half the world's Nobel prize-winners were living in California. Building the Apollo spacecraft and the space shuttle were the plum contracts offered by the US manned space programme. From its new headquarters in Seal Beach, 20 miles south of downtown LA, Rockwell won both of them. The B-1 project was no less prestigious and even more lucrative. Scrapped

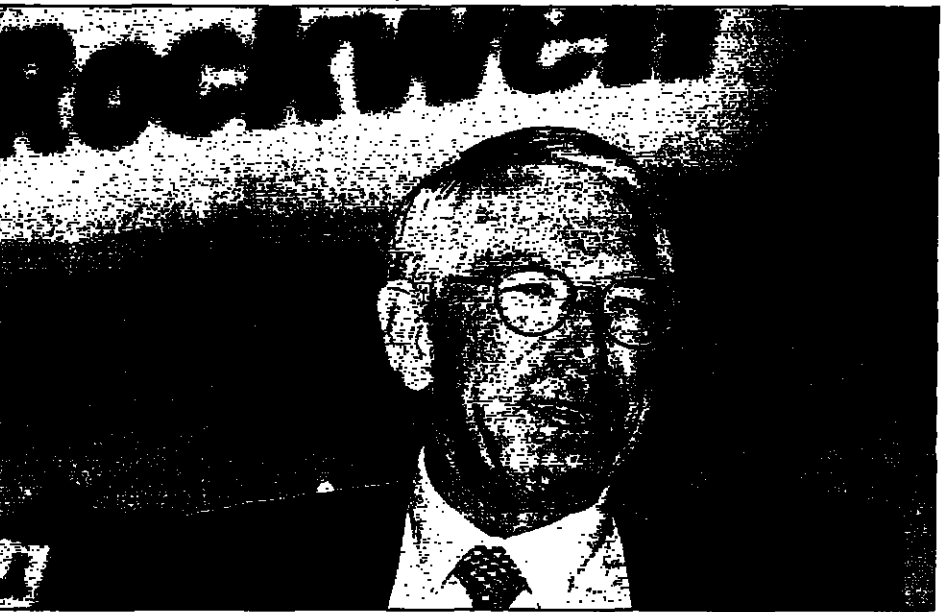
by President Carter but resurrected by President Reagan, an order for 100 bombers at more than \$200 million apiece created some 55,000 jobs nationwide, 7,500 of them in Rockwell's own plants. Barely 1,500 Rockwell employees still work on the B-1, all of them in maintenance jobs.

The company's long-term strategy was already in place, however: three years earlier it had used \$1.6 billion of B-1 profits to acquire Allen Bradley, now a market leader in factory automation. Together with its former rival, Reliance Electric (bought last year for another \$1.6 billion), the two firms form the heart of Rockwell's thriving electronics division, which has nothing to do with defence, but brings in half the group's profits.

Similar acquisitions in such

varied fields as lorry axes, printing presses and fax modems reduced Rockwell's dependence on Uncle Sam by nearly half between 1985 and 1995. The company now produces 80 per cent of the world's fax modems and two thirds of the axes on which American road freight rides. In bald terms, \$4 billion-worth of government contracts have been replaced by \$4 billion-worth of civilian ones.

Mr Beall's far-sightedness paid off last Thursday. When the sale to Boeing was announced, Rockwell stock surged by \$2.75, to \$55.25 per share, on the New York Stock Exchange, not least because with the group's space and defence division Boeing acquired \$2.2 billion of Rockwell debt, leaving Rockwell virtually debt-free.



Donald Beall, who masterminded Rockwell's strategy in the post-Cold War era

Boeing now hopes that acquiring the debt will prove a small price to pay for supremacy in space. The company best-known for building civilian airliners is also the leading American contractor for the international space station — a long-term project which, the space shuttle, now maintained by Boeing, was designed to help to build and supply.

But Boeing's new subsidiary has not had a perfect record in space in recent weeks. Earlier this summer Rockwell lost out to Lockheed-Martin's un-manned "flying wedge" in its bid for the coveted NASA contract for the next phase of development of a Reusable Space Vehicle (RSV) to replace the shuttle.

A Boeing spokesman denied the loss had affected either the value of Rockwell's space division or the timing of the deal, which is expected to be completed by mid-November. Most analysts agree that combining Boeing and Rockwell's space expertise is a case of one and one equaling three. "Synergy is an overused word, but in this case it applies," according to Bill Whitlow, of Pacific Crest Securities.

An example: Boeing currently has 15 orders worth \$100 million for satellite launches from marine platforms that look like oil derricks. So far the project is a joint venture with Ukraine, using Russian rocket engines. Future launches could use Rockwell engines instead.

The same sort of cross-fertilisation should enhance Boeing's military aircraft operations, which include a role in the B-2 Stealth bomber programme. Rockwell has no shortage of experience with bombers. Whether the partnership produces bold new civilian initiatives from Boeing is another matter, though speculation is already rife that booming airliner sales combined with a strengthened defence division could jumpstart work on a long-delayed "super-jumbo" with room for at least 550 passengers. Talks with Airbus on possible joint development of a super-jumbo collapsed earlier this year.

If nothing else, the latest aerospace merger suggests that the industry has not yet shaken out all the slack left by nearly a decade of sweeping defence cuts. To survive and compete for ever fewer contracts, the big players have steadily shed staff (some 220,000 in California so far) and joined forces: Hughes Aircraft with the General Dynamics missile division in 1992, Northrop with Grumman in 1994, Lockheed with Martin Marietta the same year. The field shrank still further this year, with Northrop Grumman buying Westinghouse's defence division and Lockheed Martin buying the Loral Corporation.

Who's next? Some Wall Street aerospace watchers think this may just be the start of a Boeing buying spree. "If they're laying the foundation for a space company, we're going to hear more from them," Byron Callan, of Merrill Lynch, predicted, hinting that Boeing might even be contemplating an eventual merger of space and air transport.

Paul Binder, Boeing's head of public relations, dismissed talk of hyper-sonic passenger-carrying aircraft as pure fantasy. Still, his company must now think of something to keep busy the boffins who built the shuttle.

The Olympic factor on Wall Street

The Olympics are over and addicts can sleep again. US bond investors have had some anxious weeks and would not doubt like a rest too; but will the Olympics still disturb them? Indeed, may the echoes of the Games even affect the great economic marathon, and reduce Alan Greenspan's chances of winning gold?

To decode these riddles, the marathon is simply the US expansion. This is already one of the longest on record and is promising to continue; and it is largely due to Mr Greenspan's steady nerve in keeping money cheap as fiscal policy grew tighter (mainly the result of defence cuts). This, in turn, supported the bull market in common stocks, which has fuelled several years of investment-led growth.

But Wall Street could now pose one of two threats to a triumphant finish. It could rise too high and crash, scaring the citizens of this mutual fund-holding democracy; or the bond market's neurotic fear of growth could push long interest rates high enough to depress equities somewhere short of a crash, and about what is still a modest housing recovery.

So far, all is well. The market looked at the latest numbers, and especially at the July job creation figures, and decided that the Fed can afford to sit tight. Before the figures, 80 per cent believed that rates would rise. Europeans may boggle at the idea that an economy that has created a "mere" 193,000 extra jobs in a month can be seen as growing only moderately; but in a good month, the US does better than that. Result: a poll on Wall Street this week showed that 79 per cent of bond professionals now believe that the Fed will leave well alone when it meets later this month. Only a week ago, the same majority believed rates would have to rise.

Nothing, in fact, has yet disturbed the battle between the big-endians and little-endians, or more accurately the half-full and half-empty schools of Wall Street economic tea-leaf reading, which has been reported in these columns before. The

growth optimists (and bond pessimists) point to low unemployment, ever higher consumer confidence, rising advertised vacancies over most of the country, strong service employment growth, and a rising leading indicator. The half-eruptics point to flat store sales and gently easing car and truck sales and forecast that the result will be an unplanned rise in inventories and a consequent cut in output.

They all use the same figures, but different adjectives: and now the market is reported to be watching tensely for the choice of adjectives in the Federal Reserve Tan Book (local Fed reports) out soon.

Sentiment as volatile as this can easily be upset again; and that is where the Olympics could come in. The optimists are currently arguing that the July figure is weaker than it looks, because the Olympics created a lot of temporary jobs that will drop out of future figures. True, undoubtedly: help-wanted advertisements in the South Atlantic region, which for July meant Atlanta, shot up nearly 25 per cent in the month. But how many is "a lot"? No one really knows. More importantly, there were also special factors pointing the other way (as there always are): the Department of Labour said that its survey this year was taken unusually close to the July 4 holiday, so the figures may be stronger than they look after all. Bear in mind that this series is quite volatile and prepare for future shocks.

Shocks are inevitable, anyway; for, as Mr Greenspan explained in his Humphrey-Hawkins testimony the Fed is not just on routine inflation alert. It is engaged in a growth experiment. Prices remain subdued and US capacity is estimated to be growing 50 per cent faster than output, so he wants to know how fast the economy can be allowed to grow before constraints appear.

Some Europeans, including our own Chancellor, are now gingerly trying to imitate Mr Greenspan; but his plan still promises a whole programme of frights for the bond market fogies.

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Building society conversions and free share bribes

From Mr R. H. C. Palmer
Sir, It may be "consumer" sense to accept a bribe for votes, it is certainly not "fair", as Mr Michael Hardern puts the case for building society conversions (Letters, August 1). The legislation intends that reserves, equal to around 7.5 per cent of members' savings investment, are to be transferred intact without payment to members. Members must then be required to subscribe to acquire plc shares.

Who can possibly imagine

that it is fair that members who are both savers and borrowers are enabled to duplicate on a simple and separate vote?

Is it right and proper that borrowers are enabled to gain an unsubscribed share capital interest in their indebtedness of up to 500 per cent on £100 of outstanding balance owed?

Sir, I have removed a sum equal to the average price of almost three houses from one society in the conversion

process, offering less than 5 per cent gross, to Nationwide offering 6 per cent on the same terms.

I have nothing against borrowing members, but they are buying their houses with funds provided by investing members, that's the mutual part. I don't intend to fund free share bribes.

Yours faithfully,
Richard H. C. Palmer,
26 Torvale Road,
Wightwick,
Wolverhampton.

Government is selling off the nation's assets on the cheap

From Mr Michael Smith
Sir, Yet again we read about privatisation of former nationalised industries being undertaken on the cheap after Porterbrook was sold to its management for £15 million despite its current valuation of £95 million. (Rail sell-off may net director over £30m; *The Times*, August 2).

Surely what is inexcusable — after a decade of selling off the nation's (read taxpayers') assets on the cheap — is for the Department of Transport to try to make us believe that the new value of Porterbrook is a "mark of success of the privatisation" rather than its inepti-

tude in privatising these companies at too low a value.

If the Conservatives were an efficient company board of Great Britain PLC, they would want to maximise financial gain from such privatisations and use it for political gain at the polls. Their ineptitude on both counts leaves me in little doubt that Mr Chairman Brian Mawhinney and his colleagues should be ousted from the UK's boardroom at the earliest opportunity.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SMITH,
37 High Oak Road,
Ware,
Hertfordshire.

Save on dealing costs

From Colin Stubbley
Sir, One way for aficionados of investment trusts to save dealing costs and put their holdings into nominee accounts is to open savings accounts with modest monthly investments in chosen trusts. Lump sums can then

be invested when market conditions are favourable. This practice eliminates the broker and qualifies the investor for Crest dealing (if that is what he wants) at a stroke.

Yours faithfully,
C. STUBBLEY,
33 Hardy Street,
Cottingham Road,
Hull.

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY AUGUST 7 1996

BANKS

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

COOPERATIVES



FILM

The blockbuster *Independence Day* confirms that Jeff Goldblum is Hollywood's favourite scientist



VISUAL ART

The Guggenheim is full to bursting with 20th-century art, which is why it's now expanding into Spain

THE TIMES ARTS



PROM

The nine musicians of the Calcutta Drum Orchestra lack the brute power to tame the Albert Hall



TOMORROW

Independence Day isn't the only film out this week. There's also *The Secret of Roan Inish*, John Sayles's latest

The very model of a modern museum

The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum opened on New York's Fifth Avenue in 1959, and now it is full to bursting with art of this century. Despite extensions to the famous circular Frank Lloyd Wright building, and a new downtown space that opened in 1992, only 2 per cent of the collection is on show at any one time.

Unable to expand on either of the New York sites, the Guggenheim has plans for three new museums: in Massachusetts, on the Punta della Dogana in Venice and, opening next summer, in Bilbao.

Thomas Krens, director of the Guggenheim, sees museums of the next century rejecting the traditional model of an "encyclopaedia in a palace" — an 18th-century idea in a 19th-century box. Put together the obsolescence of the encyclopaedia with the ability of people to travel and it suggests a new formula of decentralisation.

Hence the attraction of Bilbao, where the Basque authorities have put up the \$100 million building costs. Furthermore, in return for what the Guggenheim terms "a contribution to the museum" by the Basque government of \$15 million, the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao will be loaned works of art and provided with curatorial expertise from New York for an initial period of 75 years. A further \$15 million has been pledged by the Basque regional and state governments for buying new and specially commissioned works of art.

The architect selected for the new museum is Frank Gehry. "We stipulated that for the museum to be successful in the Basque Country it had to be the best in the world, with architectural flair," Krens says. Sited on a

The blueprint for tomorrow's art gallery is now taking shape in Spain

bend of the Nervion River, close to the docks and partly underneath a motorway bridge, the building is of a design that is as much a *jeu d'esprit* as a home for art. Every exterior surface is curved, and the tiered, compartmentalised structure will eventually be clad in shimmering titanium.

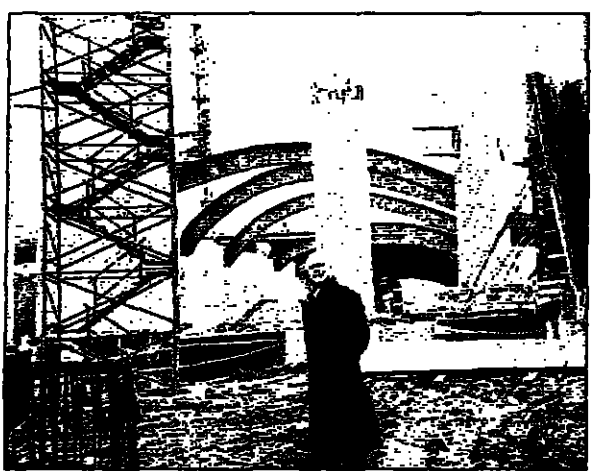
The models for the building were Fritz Lang's film *Metropolis* and Brancusi's studio, Krens says. "All the rooms are of different sizes. The central atrium is the equivalent of a 17-storey building, with the soaring experience of a Gothic cathedral." The computer design system can digitally map the curved surfaces of a working model with extreme accuracy, and then transfer the information to a milling

machine which carves an exact scale model out of plastic blocks.

Krens sees the Bilbao museum as concentrating on art of the Spanish-speaking world. "Spanish and South American art fits in well with our Hispanic audience in New York," he says. While Bilbao will have a permanent core collection ranging from Picasso and Braque to the present day, works will travel between the museums.

A recent call by the Basque National Party for Madrid to return Picasso's *Guernica* to the Basque Country that inspired the painting seems to have fallen on deaf ears. Even without one of the greatest icons of 20th-century art to pull in the crowds, though, the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao will offer what Krens calls "the overall visceral experience of art and architecture combined". It is a combination that has challenged Guggenheim curators ever since Wright's building opened — and it is what museums of the 21st century are all about.

ISABEL CARLISLE



"It had to be the best in the world": Thomas Krens, director of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum

The Bunsen burner

As *Independence Day* arrives in Britain, Joe Joseph talks to Jeff Goldblum, its sexy scientist star

You only need to look at the films of, say, Arnie Schwarzenegger or Sylvester Stallone to see that, as far as Hollywood is concerned, acting isn't exactly rocket science. Except in the case of Jeff Goldblum, where it often is. When Hollywood is looking for a scientist, they think of Jeff Goldblum. When Hollywood is looking for a 6ft 4in quirky scientist, with eyes like a sleepy Bart Simpson, and a knack for declaiming lines of scientific hokum without dragging the whole film into a B-movie quagmire, then they call Jeff Goldblum. And if they want this scientist to be the type who makes women cinemagoers dribble into their popcorn, they know Goldblum is their man.

There was *The Fly*, *Jurassic Park* and now *Independence Day*. Goldblum played scientists in them all. He likes to think of them as "cool" scientists, or "jazzy". And, of course, quirky, too. In *Independence Day*, which opens here this week, he is a computer geek who works out how to outwit alien invaders who have come to take over the planet. When it opened in America a month ago, the film took \$200 million in its first 20 days, breaking *Jurassic Park*'s record.

When the world's two biggest-grossing films both star Goldblum — and both as a scientist — Hollywood executives do their own simultaneous equation and decide that Goldblum must now be hotter than nuclear fission. Goldblum's manager, Keith Addis, confirms that his 43-

year-old client has vaulted "into a category he's never been in before. The phone calls I get have changed overnight."

So was Goldblum drawn to these roles because he is computer-literate himself? "I'm a computer idiot," he says, in that smiling, narrowly eyed way that makes computer idiosyncrasy sound like some really hard-to-get qualification. "I'm computer imbecilic. I try to know what I'm talking about, as much as I can."

"I played the guy who discovered DNA" — yup, Goldblum was also the scientist Jim Watson in the film *The Double Helix* —

"but I couldn't discover DNA. Or tell you how he discovered it, really, in very much detail. But if I have to say something I get a couple of books and get enough knowledge that I know what I'm talking about."

That's the idea. And my dad was a doctor, so you know, I was not unfamiliar... he was delighted when we'd ask science questions and he'd draw diagrams of the stomach and intestines on his napkin and stuff.

"But early on I was more interested in piano, and painting and playing sports, than in science. And then more in acting and performing, than science. But recently, I've played these couple of scientist parts and my appetite for it is emerging. I read this Carl Sagan book recently and he makes science seem a human and passionate, even romantic, spiritual and sexy affair."

Goldblum never uses one adjective when four will do, and he is never less than disarmingly polite. Forget trowels. This man lays on charm with a shovel. He is one of very few men who can gush the words "delightful" or "delicious" in every third sentence and somehow avoid sounding like Barbara Cartland.

Geena Davis, his former wife, and Laura Dern, his *Jurassic Park* co-star and current partner, both fell for the Goldblum charm, the smoky stare, sharp clothes, self-deprecating humour. One female interviewer wrote that "meeting Jeff Goldblum I fully expected that my underwear would melt". True, this female was Paula Yates, before her underwear melted for Michael Hutchence. Still, you get the general drift. So what's it like to be a big sex symbol?

He gawks with mock embarrassment: "Would you ever, could you ever consider yourself to be a sex symbol? Would you ever admit to anyone — By the way, you know, I consider myself some what of a sex symbol? Would you ever say that?"

"Look, I suppose that for somebody in the audience, somewhere, or for some circle of people, or some group of people, I don't know how large, somebody is going, 'Hey, nice... nice. I wouldn't mind having sex with him,' or something like that. I don't know. I suppose I consider that could certainly happen, and it wouldn't displease me." We'll take that to mean he doesn't mind.

What about celebrity? Fun, is it?

"Well? Yeah. It's pleasant, you know, people are familiar with you, and mostly happy to see you, and that's a pleasant thing, you can imagine. There's nothing unpleasant about that. For the most part it's delightful."

"There's a hunger organisation in Los Angeles — money goes to hungry people in your local community — and I did a public service announcement for that, so the fact that I'm a celebrity allows me to be able to contribute in that way, and that, to be honest, is fun for me. It's kind of wonderful. That's the other part of it that's nice." Fame also lets him champion Bill Clinton for President.

But he's not out raising hell with Hollywood's celeb crowd every night, oh no. You are more likely to find him playing the piano in his Hollywood Hills home. Or working out with his trainer, more out of professional duty than passion.

"I'm very quiet. I don't like to stay up late. I don't take drugs or anything, so I don't go to parties where they're taking drugs. It's kind of work for me to go to a premiere or something. I don't want to go to restaurants where people are going to be taking my picture outside. I don't always feel camera-ready."

His biggest hobby, apart from playing the piano, seems to be teaching two acting classes a week at Playhouse West. "It's more than relaxing," he says, searching for four back-up adjectives. "And giving something back makes it sound like it's a charity chore, or a spiritual exercise of some kind, and it's not that. It's like the most fun thing that I do, including acting — which has another kind of joy in it — but this is a pure, fun thing. It's exciting. It's not fun like laying-around-the-pool fun. It's... fun. A part of myself that I enjoy comes out during class, and it educates me about acting."

Talking about his teaching is as animated as he gets. Goldblum is a man who moves at 33rpm, never 78. His gestures are slow, deliberate. So is his speech. His manager may think that his client's life has changed overnight, but Goldblum merely tries out this notion on his tongue, as though it's some exotic new seasoning, before agreeing only that his life has changed "somewhat".

Although always well-reviewed — remember him in *The Big Chill*, *The Tall Guy*, *Silverado*, *Nashville*, *The Player*, the Holsten Pils commercials? — he is probably still underrated: the industry press puts his fee for *Independence Day* at just \$1 million or so. Has he been getting better parts offered to him?

"Probably so, probably so," he says eventually, though you feel this is because he calculates that is the answer you want and, hey, why create waves? As far as he's concerned, he starts filming on *Lost World*, Spielberg's *Jurassic Park* sequel, in September, and that has been in his diary for months, so what's new? He would like to work with Scorsese, Coppola. To direct more. The usual.

"I've been very lucky, very grateful, that's the truth. My experience of it hasn't been that there was some event that marked a wild, or radical change, but you know, things are going nicely. And I'm enjoying it. And I'm grateful."



Jeff Goldblum: for Hollywood executives, he must now be hotter than nuclear fission

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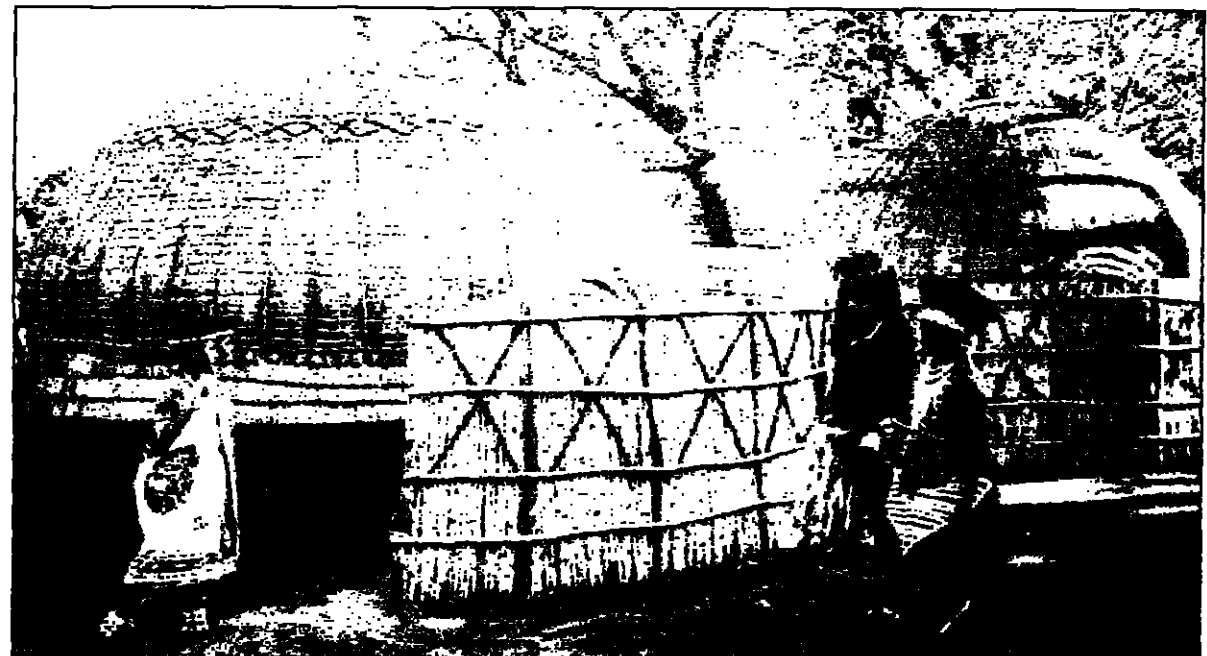
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AN EXCLUSIVE TIMES COMPETITION

Win flights to Jo'burg with Virgin



14 pairs of tickets worth £30,000 to be won on Virgin's new service to South Africa

The Times, in association with Virgin Atlantic, gives you and a partner the chance to win return flights on Virgin's new daily service direct from London to Johannesburg, South Africa's largest city. We have 14 pairs of return tickets, worth more than £30,000, to give away to this new Virgin Atlantic destination, which launches on October 2.



Virgin Atlantic Upper Class

First prize is a pair of Virgin Atlantic Upper Class tickets, two nights at Sabi Sabi Private Game Reserve, one night at Lesedi village (above), and four nights at the Karos Indaba hotel, Johannesburg. All meals (except at the Karos Indaba), safaris and transfers are included.

Second prize is one of three pairs of tickets for travel in Premium Economy and a further ten runners-up will receive a pair of Economy tickets.

Lesedi, a Sotho word meaning "light", is a multicultural African village with four tribes, Xhosa, Zulu, Pedi and Basotho, represented in different homesteads connected by natural pathways. Our winners will become houseguests of one traditional family learning about their culture and enjoying their wonderful food. In the evening they will sit around log fires watching their hosts sing and dance in the open air and stay overnight in a hut (with private facilities including hot showers) specially set aside for visitors.

HOW TO ENTER

Attach four tokens from *The Times* to the competition entry form (to be published again on Friday), tick the appropriate answer to the competition question printed on the form and complete the ten word tie-breaker saying why you would like to win a trip to Johannesburg. Post your entry to: The Times/Virgin Jo'burg Competition, Ashurst Court, London EC8R 8NG. The closing date is August 22, 1996. Full terms and conditions appeared in Saturday's and Monday's editions of *The Times*.

THE TIMES
JO'BURG TOKEN 4
virgin atlantic

Right rhythm, wrong venue

BBC PROMS

Calcutta Drum Orchestra
Albert Hall/Radio 3

Ghosh's group fell some way short of the conventional definition of an orchestra. With just nine musicians, the group lacked the power to tame this venue, even though the players' virtuosity created the illusion that at least double their number were on the stage.

The three minutely choreographed performances in their concise set developed a chain of precisely accented antiphonal patterns using resources as varied as the tabla, the barrel-drum and the *jaltarang*, a set of tuned water bowls.

The pentatonic pulse from the latter shifted the focus of the music further east, to the gamelan tradition of Indonesia.

In the final piece the centre of gravity moved again when the clamour of traditional instruments was supplemented by the entry of a standard drum kit. As Ghosh calmly continued to signal the number of beats, the musicians attained a degree of exuberance not always associated with the north Indian classical tradition.

After that extrovert display a sense of anticlimax surrounded Sharma's rag-based improvisation, accompanied by the tabla of Anindo Chatterjee. The dulcimer-like santoor still lacks the dynamic range and rhythmic flexibility to make much impact outside a chamber context.

CLIVE DAVIS



■ EDINBURGH

Celebrating a half-century: from the glorious days of the great divas like Sutherland and Callas ...



■ EDINBURGH

... to the popular cabaret shows by Marlene Dietrich that delighted adoring audiences in the Sixties ...

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ EDINBURGH

... and the avant-garde visions of the director Peter Sellars, Edinburgh marks 50 years of festivals



■ OFFER

See Gerry Marsden relive the Sixties in *Ferry 'Cross the Mersey*, with *The Times* Theatre Club

As the world descends on Edinburgh for the fiftieth festival, Richard Morrison reviews its often turbulent past

The greatest talent show on Earth



How different it all was — how pure, how noble — in 1947. "May I assure you," wrote Sir John Falconer, the Lord Provost, in the foreword to the first programme, "that this Festival is not a commercial undertaking in any way. It is an endeavour to provide a stimulus to the establishing of a new way of life centred round the arts. Edinburgh hopes that ... visitors (will) refresh their souls and reaffirm their belief in things other than material."

Not a commercial undertaking? A new way of life centred round the arts? Souls refreshed? A belief in things other than material? If you survey the turbulent first half-century of the world's biggest cultural jamboree, now meticulously chronicled by Eileen Miller in *The Edinburgh International Festival, 1947-1996* (Scolar Press), you return to Falconer's brave words with a sense of wonder.

How on earth could this high-minded undertaking have flourished in a city which seems to have begrudged its presence, its expenditure, its elitism and its cosmopolitanism? How did Falconer's ideals survive maulings by local councillors who regarded the whole parade as a "colossal squandering of public money" (to quote the most infamous attack, by Labour in 1977), or the supercilious sniping of many London critics, or the equally deplorable xenophobia often displayed in the Scottish press?

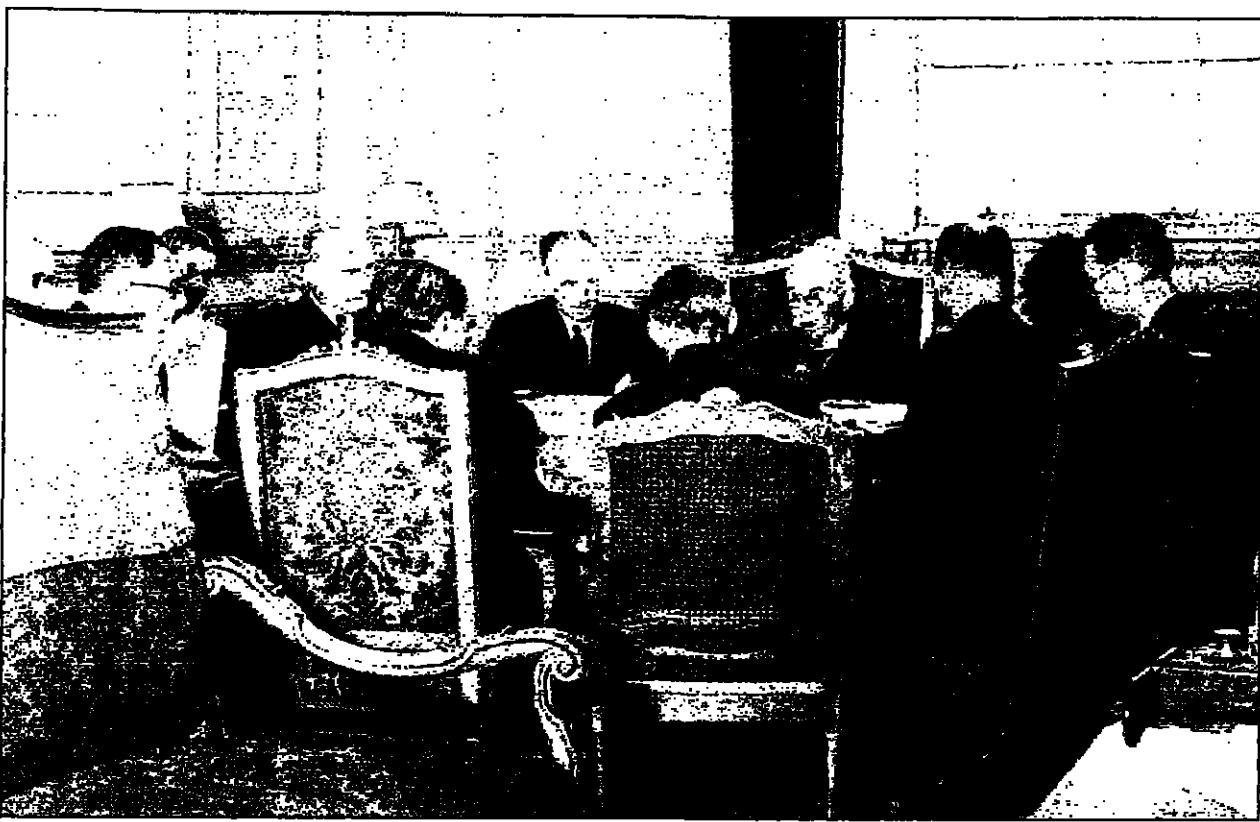
Historical circumstances certainly favoured Edinburgh at the start. Famous European festivals, notably Bayreuth and Salzburg, were still in postwar disarray. Fine performers were available: indeed, many were desperate for work. And there was a tremendous feeling of cultural rebirth: the recognition of a need to reconstruct people's minds and sensibilities as well as their homes and factories.

That inaugural Edinburgh Festival had something else too. Since Rudolf Bing, its first director, was primarily a classical music man, many of his top performers came from Germany, Austria and Italy. Thus the festival represented a burying of hatchets. Bruno Walter — a Jew who had fled Austria 12 years previously — agreed to conduct the Vienna Philharmonic at Edinburgh. The festival, he said, was "a meeting of old friends who did not know if they were still friends — but they were".

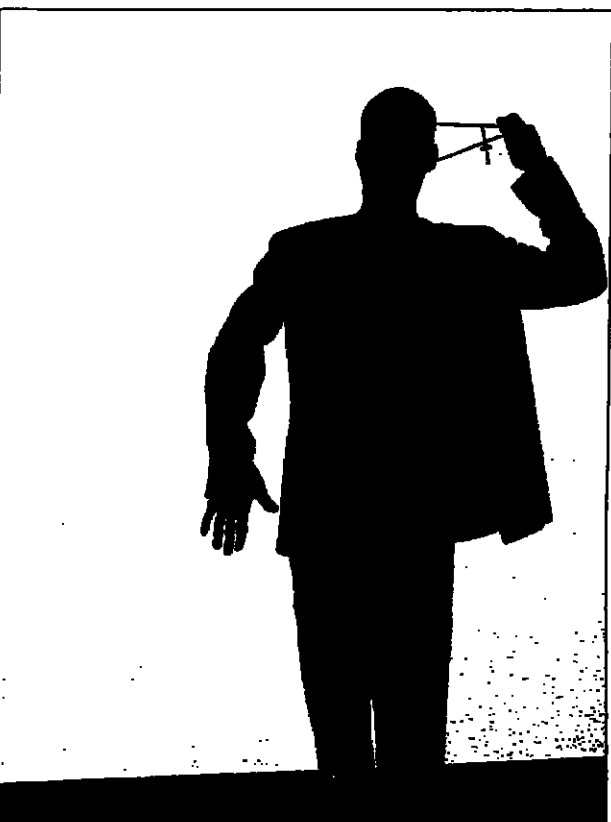
That 1947 festival banished austerity, at least temporarily. The castle was flooded for four nights, despite fuel restrictions. The performances were exciting. The sun shone for three weeks. There was a "fringe" from the beginning (six companies), a film festival (75 documentaries), a tattoo — and no fewer than 275 journalists in attendance.

But seeds of future discord were sown as well. Immediately it was apparent that Edinburgh had no theatre large or well-equipped enough to do justice to big opera productions. In the 1950s, after the Hamburg Opera labelled the King's Theatre "the worst in the world", plans were floated to build a Festival Theatre. A mere 40 years later they came to fruition. In the interim there were a hundred stories of backstage recriminations, as one visiting company after another failed to squeeze quart-sized sets and orchestras into pint-sized theatres.

Other early criticisms have also echoed through the decades. There was "not enough drama", although some Old Vic productions were gloriously starchy occasions. There was little contemporary music, although when Edinburgh did sample continental-style avant-garde music, with the premiere of an Iain Hamilton piece in 1959, it was greeted with almost total silence. And there was a bias against visual art; only in the early 1950s,



"An endeavour to provide a stimulus to the establishing of a new way of life": the inaugural Festival Council meeting, 1947



Robert Wilson's *Dr Faustus Lights the Lights*, 1993



Maria Callas as Amina in *La Sonnambula*, 1957



Ian McKellen: played Richard II and Edward II in 1969

with Ian Hunter's magnificent shows of Rembrandt, Cezanne, Gauguin, Renoir and Degas, did the festival take painting seriously.

Many natives also felt that there was "not enough Scottish culture". The nationalist complaints were understandable at the outset: after all, Edinburgh was initially set up and run like a small, distant

colony by a quintessential English squire in Clydesdale. But it has persisted through the years like a stain — and the tension between the international and the local aspirations of the festival remains uncomfortable to this day.

Yet the wealth of performing talent mustered in those early years takes the breath away.



In 1963, Martha Graham's hands ushered in a new dance era

Of course, there were far fewer festivals competing for top names then, and fees were correspondingly smaller. Even so, in 1951 the New York Philharmonic gave Edinburgh no fewer than 14 concerts. Ferrier, Fonteyn, Robbins, Sutherland and Callas all appeared in the 1950s — and when Callas failed to appear the 24-year-old Renata Scotti seized her chance of stardom. In 1962 Shostakovich heard 25 of his works at the festival. Marlene Dietrich played cabaret in 1964 and 1965, adored by the public and cursed by backstage staff.

Giulini was a regular; so was Karajan, although he didn't always enter into the festival spirit. When Lord Harewood, intent on scheduling more adventurous concerts, asked him whether the Berlin Philharmonic had any Schoenberg in its repertoire, Karajan replied: "I have never felt the necessity."

As the years passed, however, the deficits grew larger — and the protests of anti-festival councillors, of all political colours, became more strident. When the festival was bailed out by an emergency grant in 1961, a Tory councillor demanded that the "arty crafty people" running it be "replaced by business and political leaders", and to an extent they were. In 1976 it was the Labour-run Lothian Regional Council that withdrew festival funding altogether, claiming outrage at a projected £234,000 deficit for Peter Diamond's "dream team" (Abbado, Berganza, Domingo) *Carmen*.

Two other festival directors — Robert Ponsonby and John Drummond — also resigned because of inadequate local funding. So, in the 1980s, the much-maligned Frank Dunlop tried a new tack. His populist and relatively inexpensive "world theatre" seasons may have incensed the music critics, but at least they put him on the same wavelength as the stridently anti-classical Edinburgh District Council. Yet even he departed after a war of words with local councillors.

But it wasn't only money that made some Edinburgh councillors froth at the mouth. Morality also exercised their small minds. In 1963 the appearance of a nude at an avant-garde happening was denounced by the Lord Provost, no less, as a "squalid incident". Producer and model were prosecuted for indecency, but defended successfully by Nicholas Fairbairn.

Not long afterwards, a delegation of councillors felt the need to travel to Frankfurt to judge for themselves how "offensive" three topless nuns were in a production of Pro-



Beyond the Fringe: Miller, Moore, Bennett, Cook, 1960

kofier's *The Fiery Angel* that had been booked for Edinburgh. (The nuns passed muster.) Little wonder, then, that in 1964, when the artistic director Lord Harewood became entangled in messy divorce proceedings, he decided that he should tender his resignation. It was accepted.

Perhaps the most remarkable, and heartening, chapter in the Edinburgh story is the most recent. During the 1990s, while other British cultural institutions have struggled to survive, Edinburgh has experienced a glorious rebirth. To put it all down to the taciturn

but visionary Brian McMaster would not be entirely just. The crucial conversion of the old Empire bingo hall into a magnificent Festival Theatre was planned in Dunlop's era.

But McMaster has revealed an uncanny knack for combining stability (an almost embarrassing £190,000 surplus in his first year) and flair. Where Dunlop had blurred the distinction between festival proper and fringe, McMaster has regularly engaged our era's most talked-about theatre directors — Peter Sellars, Robert Wilson, Mark Morris, Peter Stein, Robert Lepage — and

lifted the official proceedings into a different league. That is as it should be. In its fifth year, the festival might not yet have succeeded in pioneering "a new way of life centred round the arts". But the thousands who flock to Edinburgh in the coming three weeks will find plenty to "refresh their souls and reaffirm their belief in things other than material".

All photographs taken from Celebration: the Edinburgh Festival — 50 years in photographs, published by the Edinburgh Festival Society and sponsored by the Royal Bank of Scotland

Be on the Fringe

THE TIMES
THEATRE
CLUB

bers can take up these two-for-the-price-of-one offers:

Theatre Workshop (venue 20)
Aug 13-14, 7.15pm
● THE 7.84 Theatre Company presents its critically acclaimed version of Sam Shepard and Joseph Chaikin's *The War in Heaven*. Tickets normally £7. Tel 0131-226 5425

Graffiti (venue 90)
Aug 12-14, 7.30pm
● IN the visually stunning *World Café*, six friends give up their everything to open a cafe-nightclub for the millennium. Tickets normally £6.50. Tel 0131-557 8330

Leith Links (venue 178)
Aug 9-31 (except Aug 28), 8pm Sat & Sun, 5pm & 8pm
● MAD MAX meets schlock horror in the high-decibel rock show *The Circus of Horrors*. Tickets normally £8 to £12. Tel 0836 222232

THE 50th Edinburgh Festival Fringe will be the largest arts festival the world has seen. From next Sunday to August 31, a staggering 14,060 performances will take place of 1,238 shows in 187 venues. But where to start? While other festival fans have to go by word-of-mouth or hit-and-miss, Theatre Club members can take up these two-for-the-price-of-one offers:

The Starr Tent (venue 109)
Aug 12-14, 9.25pm
● COMEDIE ENNE Thea Vidale on sex, racism and motherhood. Tickets normally £8. Tel 0131-668 4918

Demarco Foundation (venue 22)
Aug 28, 9.30pm
● THE Albanian Theatre Company presents *Eternity*, based on a poem by Lasgush Poradeci. Tickets normally £5. Tel 0131-557 0707

Pleasance (venue 33)
Aug 14-15, 21-22, 28-29, 11pm
● GEORGE DILLON'S *The Remembrance of Edgar Allan Poe*. Tickets normally £5. Tel 0131-556 6550

Café Royal (venue 47)
Aug 17-22, 12.30am
● HOWARD SAMUELS' *Live and Tripping*. Tickets normally £5. Tel 0181-754 8000

OTHER SPECIAL OFFERS

LONDON
Lyric Theatre
Until Aug 10
● IN 1963 Gerry and the Pacemakers made pop music history when their first three singles — *How Do You Do It?*, *I Like It* and *You'll Never Walk Alone* — got to No 1 in the charts. So who better than Gerry Marsden to star in the story of the Merseybeat phenomenon, *Ferry 'Cross the Mersey*? Featuring more than 30 chart-topping songs, this show brings back an era when Liverpool ruled the world. Preview tickets £10 (normally £15). Tel 0171-494 5054, quoting your membership number

Shepherds Bush Empire
Aug 19-20
● SAVE £2 on tickets (normally £12 to £15) for *Kiss the*

Sky, a psychedelic musical by Jim Cartwright. Tel 0181-740 7474

DARLINGTON
Arts Centre
Sept 2-3
● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £6) for the hilarious *The Rainbow Strangers*. Tel 01325 483168

HARLECH
Theatre Ardudwy
Sept 24
● SAVE 10 per cent on tickets (normally £5) for Samuel Beckett's *Endgame*. Tel 01766 780667

LEICESTER
Haymarket Theatre
Aug 24, 31, Sept 7, 14
● TICKETS £5 (normally £10) to see the 1970s musical phenomenon, *Hot Stuff*. Tel 0116-253 0021

HOW TO BOOK — AND JOIN

TO BOOK, please phone the listed number during normal office hours. The price printed on the ticket you receive will be the special price negotiated by the Theatre Club. There may be a transaction charge to cover postage. TO JOIN the Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 2164, Colchester CO2 8JL, or telephone 01206 225145 using your credit card. Please allow 28 days for delivery of your membership pack. For general inquiries call 0171-387 9673

CHOICE 1



Tan Dun conducts a London premiere of his own work at the Proms

VENUE: Tonight at the Albert Hall

CHOICE 2



Alison Peebles plays a bride in the new play, *Shining Souls*

VENUE: Tonight at the Traverse, Edinburgh

THE TIMES ARTS

CHOICE 3



Jonathan Morris stars in a rare London showing of *The Fantasticks*

VENUE: Tonight at the King's Head, Islington

OPERA



In America, the composer Tobias Picker scores a sensation with his first work, *Emmeline*

OPERA: American premiere of a stunning reworking of Oedipus; Handel at the Proms

Picker's peck of peppers

Emmeline Santa Fe

A confused, sensitive individual, accused of transgressing cultural norms under circumstances murky with psychosexual undertones, is condemned and cast out by a grimly moralistic small town society. A promising scenario for an opera debut, perhaps. At any rate, it worked for Benjamin Britten, and now the American composer Tobias Picker has written a sensational, satisfying first opera based upon dramatic materials of a distinctly Grimesian mould. *Emmeline*, in its world premiere at the Santa Fe Opera, is one of the most successful American operas in years.

The story, based on Judith Rossner's bestselling novelisation of a true-life tragedy in 19th-century Massachusetts, presents the Oedipus legend from Jocasta's point of view. Emmeline Mosher, just 13 years old, is sent by her impoverished parents to work in a textile mill. There she is seduced by the mill owner's son-in-law and becomes pregnant. Emmeline's baby is taken from her at its birth, and she retires into guilt-ridden seclusion.

Twenty years later, a virile young roamer comes to town and lodges with the Mosheres. Emmeline falls violently in love with him and, ignoring her family's protests, they marry. (At the wedding, the chorus of town's women creak "Never last, never last.") Then, with a devastating irony, reminiscent of the recognition scene in Strauss's *Elektra*, it is revealed that Emmeline's bridegroom is her own lost child. Her fall is utter: the townspeople revile her, her family abandons her.

Picker's musical idiom is mercifully unrevolutionary, but neither is it reactionary. Inevitably, the score will be



Emmeline (Patricia Racette) unknowingly marries her son (Curt Peterson) in Tobias Picker's brilliant debut opera

labelled "Neo-Romantic", the term now used for any music that makes concessions to melody and the limitations of the human voice. Picker possesses a distinctively American voice, at some moment recalling Copland's moody, folksy sentimentality and at others Bernstein's bittersweet drollery.

But his style is original: the listener does not come away from *Emmeline* with the impression that he has glued together a hotchpotch of snippets. What quotation there is serves a function: a hoedown fiddle establishes time and place, a Lutheran hymn sets the chorus's moral tone. There are passages where Picker's musical invention fails him,

and others where it gets the best of him, but he never drops the musical thread, and throughout the piece he sets his scenes with live compositional virtuosity. Picker's palette vibrates with wit, pathos and power, ranging from a berserk solo cello to represent doomed erotic tension, to powerful, unapologetic dissonance at the catastrophe.

Emmeline never makes musical reference to Britten, except, fortuitously, in the contrapuntal repetition of a minor triad motif setting the protagonist's name (which indeed almost rhymes with Peter Grimes). And, while Picker's opera does not approach the majestic power of *Grimes*, it draws upon American literary

tradition in much the same way that Britten's opera did the British.

In its astringent puncturing of the hypocrisy of the guardians of public morality, *Emmeline* can lay claim to a honourable place in a core tradition of American literature and lyric drama, a line that commences with Nathaniel Hawthorne and Mark Twain and arches forward to Sinclair Lewis and Carlisle Floyd's *Susannah*.

The libretto, by the American poet J.D. McClatchy, bristles with clichés. (The best *Emmeline* seducer can come up with is "my wife as cold as stone", but at least has the virtue of being clear and

helo's production propelled the narrative with elegance.

Patricia Racette was deeply affecting in the main part, although by evening's end her intonation had become more a little erratic. Tenor Curt Peterson made a vivid impression as her husband-son, looking and sounding as though he might, with a bit of seasoning, make a fine Billy Budd. The scrappy yet spirited Santa Fe Orchestra was led decisively by George Manahan. Manahan was recently appointed music director of the New York City Opera, which raises the hope that *Emmeline* may find a robust afterlife, beginning at Lincoln Centre.

JAMIE JAMES

A triumph at the Proms, by Jove

Semele Albert Hall/Radio 3

It was a semi-staging, if truth be told, thanks to the graphic orchestral playing and the heightened body-language of the singers.

No sooner had the flames risen from the temple of Juno in the flickering and asymmetrical figurants. They brought with them a concert performance (true to the opera's original, without any "fine machinery") of Robert Carver's production from Aix-en-Provence, due to arrive at English National Opera before long.

ous continuo playing of chamber organ and lute, and sprouted into colorful ecstasy as she gazed into the mirror that was to cause her downfall — but not before even wilder, longer applause from the Prommers.

They had been wooed rather more rudely by Juno and Iris, plotting to reinstate themselves where the mere mortal Semele had dared to tread. Kathleen Kuhlmann, in iridescent scarlet as Juno, and Janis Kelly in Iris-blue had found double entendres aplenty in Congreve's verse.

Their double act may have been over the top, but it certainly got them back up to Olympus, while Semele suffered the inevitable fate of all those who choose a flash of lightning for a lover.

The hyper-intense behaviour of Semele's sister, Ino (the Swedish mezzo-soprano Charlotte Hellekant) was less easy to take. Being in unrequited love with her sister's mortal fiancé Athamas (counter-tenor Michael Chance in fine form) could not have been much fun, but Hellekant's exaggerated phrasing and over-deliberate enunciation became more risible than her music intended.

Not so Willard White, a splendidly languorous bass Sonnius, who as the god of sleep ensured, with Christie's excellent chorus, that every eye and ear but his own remained wide open throughout this four-hour evening.

HILARY FINCH

LONDON

BBC PROMS 96: Many Britons conduct the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra in Handel's *The Ship of the Fools* and Schumann's beguiling Piano Concerto (Robert Lins Vogt). After the first interval, the Chinese-American composer Tan Dun conducts the London premiere of his *On Tessen and Orchestra*. The R. R. Brabbin returns to the podium to conduct Walton's Second Symphony. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-581 8212). Tonight, 7pm.

THE FANTASTICKS: Rare British staging of the musical that has been running on Broadway since 1982. A parody of true love, aided by the senior El Gallo (Jonathan Morris). Don Coward directs. King's Head, 115 Upper Street, N1 (0171-226 1818). Opera tonight, 2.30pm. Then Tue-Fri, 2.30pm. Sat, matinee until Aug 11. Then Tue-Sat, 8pm; mat. Sat and Sun, 3.30pm. Aug 13 to Sep 1.

THE TITMICE: Sir and First Theatre Company presents a subtle production of Molière's classic farce, translated by David B. A touching, comic study in wit, the record and comic comedy depicts a family at war with itself, which is translated by the steady attention of an inquisitive and collected house. Directed by Marc Brenner. At the Edinburgh Fringe from August 19 (Cragghead Centre, 011-650 8201).

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Macey

Grange, The Lichfield, 603 Battersea Park Road, SW11 (0171-223 3549). Tonight and Aug 5, 10 (7pm), in a double bill with *The Road Inspector* (Hend) and 12.

ELSEWHERE

EDINBURGH: Traverse Theatre presents the second of two productions on the eve of the Festival, *Shining Souls*, a new play by the excellent Alison Peebles. Alison Peebles plays a bride in two made about her man, and putting her last in the text cards. Last production here by Ian Brown, the outgoing Artistic Director. Traverse, Cambridge Street (0131-228 1404). Preview tonight, 7pm. Opera Aug 8, 8pm. For further performances, contact the box office.

GLASGOW: The Scottish Opera presents the second of two productions on the eve of the Festival, *Shining Souls*, a new play by the excellent Alison Peebles. Alison Peebles plays a bride in two made about her man, and putting her last in the text cards. Last production here by Ian Brown, the outgoing Artistic Director. Traverse, Cambridge Street (0131-228 1404). Preview tonight, 7pm. Opera Aug 8, 8pm. For further performances, contact the box office.

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THEATRE GUIDE

Jenny Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, return only

Some seats available

Seats at all prices

WC2 (0171-389 1726). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm; mat. Wed, 3pm, Sat 5pm.

BRIDY: William Wharton's best-selling novel where a schizophrenic longs for freedom, oddly fitted but now adapted for the stage by Robert Wallace. Kevin Knight directs. Tom Williams and Adam Garcia.

LYRIC THEATRE, King Street, Harrogate, W6 (0181-741 2311). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat. Sat, 4.30pm. Until August 17.

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED): The RSC's (Reduced Shakespeare Company) popular, witty rough-housing of the bard.

Colston, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-368 1737). Wed-Sat, 8pm; mat. Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5pm, and Sun, 4pm, 8pm.

DIAL "M" FOR MURDER: Peter Dawson and Catherine Rabert in Frederick Knott's classically ingenious thriller, dating from the days before the all-dial phone number.

Apollonia, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-404 5070). Preview from Aug 6, 8pm. Aug 8, 8pm; mat. Thurs, Fri, Sat, 8.15pm; mat. Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5pm.

THE MEDD GARDNER: A chance for London to see Alexander Gardner's acclaimed performance in Stephen Ure's production for English Touring Theatre.

Donner Warehouse, Enfield Street, Doncaster.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and elsewhere

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ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

PICTURE SALE, 1000 Modern British Paintings and Watercolours, £10 - £500 Estate of Lucy Canning. Wednesday, 7.30pm, 11.30pm. **DUNCAN CAMPBELL**, 15, Theobald's Sq, W6 (0171-581 8865).

Summer Exhibition When English Art was Young. **PAULSON GALLERY**, 34-36, 100, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841,

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A major international bank based in the City wishes to recruit two secretaries to work within its Corporate Finance area. Candidates will 'float' within the department and will work at senior and team level. Shorthand (80wpm) is required for one of the positions and typing speed is c50wpm. First class personal presentation is necessary together with good communication and organisational abilities. Good knowledge of Word for Windows is required and age range is mid 20's to mid 30's. The position is open to applicants who are seeking a permanent position or those who wish to be considered on a temp to perm basis.

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More secretaries are improving their opportunities through on-job training — but it is still important to network, says Jennai Cox

If you want to get on, get on a course

The highly educated secretary is expected to bear new responsibilities — but as the job becomes more complex, training is often neglected. Research by the Industrial Society in 1993 showed that only 10 per cent of the average training budget was allocated to support staff.

Elaine Howard, the principal of Kudos Training, says that secretaries are no longer judged by who they work for but have to establish their individual credibility. Many of those who are qualified by experience more than education feel they need a qualification.

As a result, a number of companies are now giving better training, offering staff the opportunity to improve their skills in administration and business technology, text processing, marketing, databases, spreadsheets, networks, multimedia and programming.

There are also courses on assertiveness, self-confidence building, time management, handling pressure and management skills.

Bass, for example, has established training schemes which will help secretaries to develop their

career or move to a new field. The London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) recently held seminars on secretarial development in Birmingham, Manchester and Sheffield. Talking to the secretaries who attended, Halina Dowgan of the LCCI said that while their ambitions had risen, attitudes about how to achieve them had not.

"In many ways it seemed as though nothing had changed," she says. "They want progress, but are not always prepared to do something about it. They find it hard to be assertive."

When asked what topics they wanted to discuss, many secretaries cited relationships with their managers "as if they saw them as some kind of barrier". Ms Dowgan advises them to set up networks with other secretaries, making it less intimidating to approach the boss to discuss promotion.

When employers discover that a member of staff has enrolled on a work-related course, they are often

prepared to pay, according to research by the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education.

Karen Murray, 34, acquired two professional qualifications paid for by her employer. "I wanted to do the courses as a back-up," she says. "They have benefited me enormously in developing my knowledge and confidence and my boss really appreciates my qualifications." Her new skills allowed her to move to a larger company and when she wanted to complete another course, she was offered study leave.

Because there is no specific career structure for support staff, they are advised to create their own. The Secretarial Development Network (SDN) has set up development centres as a result of research in which companies indicated a commitment to training, but little understanding of how to implement it. Freda Gardiner, of the SDN, says secretaries need to create their own opportunities by volunteering to do jobs outside their normal role and by challenge-

ing procedures if they could be more efficient.

Roy Harrison, a policy adviser with the Institute of Personnel and Development, says progress is not always dependent on taking courses. Secretaries should also use their "bird's eye view" of the organisation to plan their career development. "Ambitious people have always known that continuing professional development is not just about formal training, it is about making the most of every learning opportunity that presents itself," he says.

But no one denies the need for continued education, particularly in a market opening up to Europe. The European Association of Professional Secretaries is to launch a lifelong learning model on the Internet in September through which members will be able to update skills on a self-study basis.

Seminars set up in response to demands for information on career development will also be run in the autumn by Fasttrack, The Under-Secretary for Education and Employment, Cheryl Gillan, will address the forum on the Government's vision of education for the next century.

'They want progress, but find it hard to be assertive'

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Mel Turner at BiblioTech: "It is so much easier than I expected"

WEB LITERATE

MANY secretaries worry that technology is passing them by. In America they could pop into their local high street cyber centre for a short course on the World Wide Web for example. Now Britain is beginning to catch up.

In Fulham, southwest London, Tig and Nabil Shabka have just opened a local centre called BiblioTech, designed to take the worry out of learning. With modern art on the walls and comfortable cane chairs, it has the look and feel of a library, because unless staff feel happy using computers, their main purpose in increasing efficiency is lost. Mr Shabka says, "Computers can be the biggest time wasters if you do not know how to approach them."

Interactive audio training on dozens of programmes, including Microsoft Word for Windows, Word Perfect, PageMaker and Quark, mean customers can go at their own pace. PowerPoint, used for doing presentations, is another popular programme, as are the Photoshop and Excel packages.

Mel Turner works for a promotions company which recently sent her on two BiblioTech courses, including one on how to use the Internet for work. The company had the worldwide system installed but not enough staff knew how to use it.

"I was amazed," she says. "It is so much easier than I expected. I have learnt at my own pace and it's given me the confidence to use the technology in the office."

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Law Report August 7 1996 Court of Appeal

Home Secretary acted unfairly in setting tariff period for child killers

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department. Ex parte Venables. Regina v Same. Ex parte Thompson

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Hobhouse and Lord Justice Morritt
[Judgment July 30]

Decisions made by the Home Secretary fixing the period which would elapse before two child offenders convicted of the murder of a small child were to be considered for release from detention were vitiated by unfairness and accordingly would be set aside.

The Court of Appeal so held, dismissing, on different grounds, appeals by the Home Secretary from the Divisional Court (Lord Justice Pill and Mr Justice Newman, *The Times* May 7, 1996) which had granted applications made on behalf of Jon Venables and Robert Thompson for judicial review of decisions by the Home Secretary fixing a tariff period of 15 years in each case as the minimum period to be served to satisfy the requirements of retribution and deterrence and declining to follow the judicial recommendations of eight and 10 years made by the trial judge and the Lord Chief Justice respectively.

The applicants had been sentenced to detention during their Majesties' pleas following their conviction for the murder of a child aged 2½. At the time of the offence they had been aged ten and a half.

Mr David Pannick, QC and Mr Mark Shaw for the Home Secretary, Mr Edward Fitzgerald, QC and Mr Ben Emmerson for Venables, Mr Brian Higgins, QC and Mr Julian Nutter for Thompson.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS emphasised that the 15-year period was not fixed as the period which the applicants were actually to spend in detention. That period could be substantially longer: 15 years was the minimum period which would normally elapse prior to release and enabled the Home Office and the applicants to know when the first review should take place.

That review commenced three years before the expiry of the tariff to enable the Home Secretary to

decide by the time it expired whether it was appropriate to release the applicants from detention on licence. That was necessary as the duration of her Majesty's pleas was unspecified.

The Home Secretary's case was that Parliament had given her exactly the same breadth of discretion in the case of children and young persons who were sentenced for murder as he had in relation to adults sentenced to life imprisonment: therefore he was exercising his discretion lawfully as long as he complied with the guidance given in *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Doody* (1994) 1 AC 533 as to the extent and nature of his discretion in the case of adults.

His Lordship referred to Mr Fitzgerald's argument, adopted by Mr Higgins, that:

1 The sentence of detention during her Majesty's pleas did not order detention for life as a punishment for murder, but authorised indefinite detention as long as necessary to meet objectives which were either wholly or predominantly reformatory and preventative;

2 At least in the case of an offender aged 10 the only legitimate objective of the present sentence was the reformation of the offender and the protection of society, not retribution and deterrence;

3 On the other hand, if it were permissible to have regard to retribution and deterrence it was wrong to determine the review date by reference to those objectives alone and so exclude for the period of the tariff a periodic review of the wider merits of continuing detention including the extent of the progress and the nature of the offender's character.

4 As an alternative to 3 above, if it were legitimate to fix a tariff at the outset to reflect punishment and deterrence, it was not appropriate to take into account in the case of a child the views of the public as to the period of detention which was appropriate or to adopt an approach which was greatly in excess of that which was adopted by the judiciary.

5 The Home Secretary had come to his decision unfairly because he had not made full disclosure of the material on which he relied and did not have sufficient information

as to the applicants' backgrounds to enable him to reach his decision.

His Lordship referred to the statutory provisions and surveyed the historical development of the powers of imprisonment for life of adults as compared with those relating to children.

With regard to adults he referred in particular to the parliamentary statement of policy made by Mr Lord Britton, Home Secretary, on November 30, 1983, section 35 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, the *Doody* case and to the present Home Secretary's further parliamentary statement in July 1993, which made it clear that the policy was to treat children detained during her Majesty's pleas, even if they were only 10 years old, in the same way as adults sentenced to mandatory life sentences.

With regard to children convicted of murder, his Lordship referred to section 53 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 which reflected the provisions of the Children Act 1989 and made it clear beyond doubt that a sentence of detention during her Majesty's pleas was not the same as a sentence of imprisonment for life. The section did not provide any express guidance as to what Parliament intended as to the duration of such a sentence.

It left that to the Home Secretary to determine on behalf of her Majesty. But it only continued so long as that was the Home Secretary's pleasure.

Under section 53(2) the court could also sentence a child to a sentence of detention for life since such a period included life for the purposes of the section: see *R v Abbott* (1994) 1 QB 489.

Such a period of detention would, however, be a discretionary sentence. And in practice it would be a sentence which it would be inappropriate to regard as involving, as did a mandatory life sentence, the implication that a young offender had forfeited any expectation of release.

Mr Pannick had argued that the correctness of the Home Secretary's approach was confirmed by section 35(2) and (3) of the 1991 Act when read with sections 43 and 51 of that Act.

His Lordship accepted that there was a clear relationship between the provisions as to adults and

those relating to young offenders but it did not follow that the symmetry was necessarily exact so that the only difference between the mandatory sentences was the conditions in which the two age groups were to be housed while in custody.

The provisions of sections 43 and 51 were only for the purpose of Part II of the 1991 Act. That meant the statutory source of the Home Secretary's discretion to order the release was the same in the case of both classes of offenders but it did not mean that the sentences from which they were being released were necessarily the same.

Mr Fitzgerald was therefore right in saying that her Majesty's pleas remained a separate and different sentence from that of a mandatory life sentence. In the case of an adult murderer a sentence was one for life if it was explicit from the sentence itself that the subject of the sentence was to forfeit for the period of life any right to be released.

In the case of a sentence of detention during her Majesty's pleas there was no such explicit or implicit consequence to be derived from the language of the sentence. There could still be an expectation of release, not on a pre-determined date, but when the character or personality of the offender as irrelevant when determining the appropriate tariff.

That approach substantially limited the scope of the suggestions that his decision was not immutable and meant that if a character changed beyond recognition for the better that could not bring forward the first review date.

With regard to the lawfulness of the policy his Lordship did not agree that punishment and deterrence necessarily had a limited role to play in the case of the detention of a young offender for murder during her Majesty's pleas under section 53. The sentence was intended to have a punitive effect and was originally introduced as a substitute for capital punishment.

The weight to be given to the need for punishment in any particular case as against other legitimate considerations was a matter for the Home Secretary to determine when deciding in the exercise of his discretion when a particular young offender should be released. The policy could not therefore be faulted for the importance it attached to the need for punishment.

Obviously allowance had to be made for the age of the offender

when determining the tariff. But that could be and was allowed for when fixing the tariff under the policy.

The need for rehabilitation was also a relevant factor which could in part be catered for in the regime provided for the offender while in detention and influence the decision as to when to release.

His Lordship did not consider that the fact that the mandatory sentence of detention for young offenders was distinct from the mandatory sentence of life imprisonment meant that the same tariff-based approach could not be deployed in relation to both.

The distinction was sufficiently accommodated if it was recognised in the application of the policy. That involved paying greater attention to the need for flexibility when circumstances required.

With regard to the application of the policy, his Lordship said that the Home Secretary's discretion as to release was very wide and was of a type which called out for the development of policy as to the way it would in general be exercised.

That would assist in providing consistency and certainty which were highly desirable in an area involving the administration of justice where fairness was particularly important.

The policy was not to prevent the recognition of the exceptional case which could require a departure from that policy. If that happened it would be an example of unlawful fettering of discretion.

That was an important question. The position was accurately stated by *Wade, Administrative Law* (7th edition (1994) 360) under the heading "Over-rigid policies".

When the 1993 statement was considered in the light of the present case it was apparent that the later policy was more rigid. In the case of young offenders to put off the commencement of a general review of their position theoretically as long as 17 years appeared to be totally unreasonable.

Even in the case of offenders of the applicants' age to put it off for 12 years appeared unacceptable and contrary to the proper exercise of the discretion. His Lordship would take a different view if after the tariff was fixed as high as that there was to be a general reconsideration during the period of the tariff.

The policy would then allow changes of circumstances, inevitably occurring as young offenders grew up to be taken into account. The need for reconsideration was especially important if limited information was available to the Home Secretary when he reached his decision on the tariff.

After what period reconsideration should take place was a matter for the Home Secretary, but it could not be postponed for as long as 12 years for no good reason in the case of offenders of the applicants' age.

His Lordship did not say that progress entitled the younger offender to a review at a later date. All that was required was a willingness to reconsider the date of review if there was material available to the Home Secretary indicating that was desirable.

The statute gave him a discretion allowing him to exercise his power of release at any time. He could not decline to consider exercising a discretion which he had throughout the period of the detention irrespective of the circumstances of an exceptional case.

The difference between the judicial figures as to tariff and that of the Home Secretary was so different as to raise a doubt as to whether there was a difference of approach as to what the tariff could be.

Under the tariff was to bear some relationship to what punishment the judiciary would impose, what was the purpose of consulting them? That was underlined when it was remembered that the tariff was a figure, taking into account the need to remain in the account of the tariff.

However, his Lordship did not consider that it was open to a court to interfere on that ground alone, once it was accepted that punishment was part of the sentence.

The scale of the tariff selected here was still of significance. To the fact that at the time of the offence they were just over the age of criminal responsibility and the nature of the offence, there had to be added the fact that the tariff considered appropriate was longer than ever selected for an offender of that age.

When the limited evidence available about the applicants was also taken into account together with the public interest in the tariff figures, which was out of all proportion to the significance of the tariff, there was an almost irresistible case for considering whether the tariff approach should exceptionally be departed from. On the evidence that had not been considered, it should have been a departure from the tariff which would have allowed the development of the applicants to be considered.

It would avoid the Home Secretary publicly being in significant disagreement with the judiciary which could only tend to undermine the public confidence in the criminal justice system.

On the question of the fairness of the decision, his Lordship said that it was clear that the Home Secretary had taken into account the petitions and other documents presented to him urging the fixing of a higher tariff than that fixed by the judiciary.

That could well provide part of the explanation for the striking difference in the judiciary's and the Home Secretary's figures for the period of the tariff. His Lordship regarded that as being a departure from the standards of fairness required for the exercise of a discretion of the present sort.

He also regarded it as the taking into account of material which was not relevant at that stage. If it were relevant then it was so to the question of release after the tariff period had been served.

To take into account the petitions and other such material was unfair because it was material which had come into existence in a way which it was impossible for the applicants to test or match.

While the Home Secretary was not confined in his consideration of the tariff to the material which a court would regard as relevant, he should at least bear in mind when performing a similar role how the courts performed that role. A court would regard it as quite improper for that type of material to be before it.

To run a campaign designed to increase the punishment in a particular case could amount to an interference with the due administration of justice. That being the position as to the courts, it was difficult to see the justification for the Home Secretary taking a different view.

The material which the Home Secretary should have had before him when fixing the tariff had to be judged against the extent to which the tariff was capable of being reconsidered and its length.

It was not an initial view which would in due course be fully reviewed and the period was as long as 15 years in the case of children of the applicants' ages his Lordship could only describe the approach in the present cases as perfunctory and as falling far below the standards that a court would adopt if contemplating sentencing a child for a period of 15 years detention. A court would require full social and psychiatric reports.

In the present cases, there should have been full description of the nature of all the material before the Home Secretary which was to be taken into account. The applicants needed to know what was not available to him. It had been assumed that the full reports would be, but they were absent.

For them to be considered after the decision had been reached was not the same as for them to be taken into account before the decision was reached. There was a natural reluctance in the Home Secretary's decision-making to change it in the absence of clear evidence and the applicants were entitled to a proper decision taken on the relevant material.

The appeals would be dismissed so the decisions could be taken again.

There was a real need for reconsideration of how cases were being administered which inevitably resulted in young children being detained for long periods.

The history of the statements made to Parliament suggested the policy in relation to child murderers might have been adopted as an afterthought to that in the case of adults without the detailed consideration required.

Approximately 90 years ago an enlightened Parliament recognised that a flexible sentence of detention was what was required, with a very wide discretion being given to the person Parliament thought best suited to oversee that discretion so that the most appropriate decision as to release could be taken in the public interest.

The subsequent statutes had not altered the nature of the discretion. Yet by a series of policy decisions, that flexibility had in relation to such cases all but disappeared. That did not accord with what Parliament had laid down; nor did it lead here to a just result.

LORD JUSTICE HOBHOUSE said that the purpose of section 53 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 and its related provisions was not to excuse the offender from punishment but to ensure that the custodial punishment was served in appropriate conditions which would assist his rehabilitation and not, so far as possible, expose him to further corruption.

It was that feature, not the date of release, which was separately provided for, which was the hall mark of the sentence of detention under the Children Act 1908 and section 53 of the 1933 Act.

The correct understanding of those Acts was clear. They provided for punishment. In respect of convicted murderers they required the passing of a life sentence.

His Lordship did not agree with Lord Justice Pill in the Divisional Court in the present case, nor with the similar views expressed by the Master of the Rolls.

His Lordship referred to the Criminal Justice Act 1991 and, in particular, to section 35(2) and (3) which required the release of mandatory prisoners and to section 43.

The statutory intention was clear and not open to argument. Young offenders sentenced under section 53(1) of the 1933 Act to detention during her Majesty's pleas were governed by the provisions of section 35 of the 1991 Act.

The breadth of the Home Secretary's discretion was the same in both classes of case. Whatever room for argument there might previously have been, the matter was now concluded by the provisions of the 1991 Act.

The conclusion of the Divisional Court could not be supported. In so far as the Master of the Rolls based his decision on the same view of section 53(1) his Lordship had to dissent.

On the ground of unfairness, his Lordship referred to the materials before the Home Secretary.

It appeared from the affidavit evidence that the Home Secretary had reached his decision without seeing any of the trial papers or having read the judge's summing up but had depended entirely for his information about the offences and the applicants' level of premeditation and responsibility on the judge's summary.

His Lordship did not consider that they had been given adequate information to enable them to make full representations, nor did it comply with the guidance given in the *Doody* case.

He agreed with the Master of the Rolls on that ground of challenge and would dismiss the appeal.

LORD JUSTICE MORRITT delivered a judgment concurring with Lord Justice Hobhouse on the issue of statutory construction and agreeing in the result that the Home Secretary's decisions should be quashed on the ground of unfairness.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; John Howell & Co. Sheffield; Paul Rooney & Co. Liverpool.

Immoral advertisements still have to be paid for

Armhouse Lee Ltd v Chappell and Another
Before Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Schiemann
[Judgment July 23]

Promotional material for telephone sex lines was not so immoral that the courts would decline to enforce the payments for the advertisements.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment in dismissing an appeal brought by the defendants, Anthony Chappell and ST Grid Ltd, against the decision of Mr Titheridge, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge when he gave judgment for a sum in excess of £700,000 to the plaintiff, Armhouse Lee Ltd.

Mr Roderick Cordara, QC, who did not appear below, and Mr Richard Millett for the defendants; Mr James Cowie, QC and Mr R. C. Freedman for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN said that the first defendant was a self-proclaimed pornographer who carried on that business both in person and through the medium of the second defendant, a company which he owned and controlled.

At the heart of the appeal lay a plea by the defendants that their promotional material was so immoral, or indeed illegal, that they ought not to have to pay for it: they argued that public policy dictated that the courts should decline to enforce the contracts in question.

Until about 1993 both defendants were engaged in the business of renting and operating telephone sex lines at premium rates, a business from which in the

years 1988 to 1993 they earned some £15 million.

The placing of the advertisements in the defendant's advertising agency, the plaintiffs, was effected by the defendant. The plaintiffs were formed specifically so as to benefit from the 15 per cent discount obtainable by advertising agents from magazine publishers. Broadly, the discount paid the plaintiffs was calculated by reference to the telephone sex lines started to become less profitable. That being so, the defendants decided to discontinue paying the plaintiffs for their advertising services.

Deprived of funds, the plaintiffs were unable to meet their liabilities to their advertising agency and then compulsory liquidation. Only then, because the first defendant lost control, could the plaintiffs bring the present action.

In the court below, the main grounds upon which the defence of illegality was run below were that:

1 The advertisements themselves were obscene, alternatively, that they involved a conspiracy to corrupt public morals and for outrage public decency and 2 Even if no criminal offence had been committed, then the contracts for placing them were contrary to public policy as being contracts tending to promote sexual immorality.

In his judgment, the judge specifically dealt with only the first ground. He found that the advertisements found that the advertisements for those services were not obscene, whether at common law or under the Obscene Publications Act 1959.

In the Court of Appeal, Mr Cordara sought to put the defendants' case rather differently. He

sought to expand the ambit of illegality defence beyond the category of pre-recorded messages to a second category of live conversations and a third category of sex dating.

His Lordship accepted that the advertisements included categories 1 and 2, but ruled out any reliance on category 3. The arguments could then be dealt with under five heads.

Prostitution. Once category 3 services were put aside, there was no physical contact involved in the use of category 1 or 2 services. None the less, Mr Cordara submitted that the women providing such services were prostitutes. His Lordship rejected Mr Cordara's argument that the women were prostitutes because they were not offering sexual excitement in return for payment sought to constitute prostitution.

A finding of prostitution required at the very least both the putative prostitute be at some stage in her client's presence and that her offer was of some direct physical contact of a sexual nature between them.

Other sexually immoral purposes. Mr Cordara submitted that even if the provision of category 1 and 2 services did not amount to prostitution it nevertheless involved sexual activity at a price.

Contracts for its promotion ought accordingly not to be enforced on the ground of public policy. The true public policy, which operated was the court's refusal to lend itself to the enforcement of any contract involving the supply of services of a sexual nature for reward.

In his Lordship's judgment the

argument was unsustainable. No generally accepted moral code condemned these telephone sex lines. On the contrary, society accepted their existence but had placed them under the express control of an independent body.

There were also a number of powerful countervailing considerations of public policy in play which ought positively to incline the court to enforce rather than outlaw the particular contracts.

First, the general desirability to uphold contracts freely entered into. That consideration was of particular relevance given the brazen cynicism of these defendants' arguments for escaping their plain liability.

Second, it was undesirable that in such a case, involving an area regarded as the preserve of the criminal law, for individual judges exercising a civil jurisdiction to impose their own moral attitudes.

Given also Mr Cordara's concession that even if these contracts were held to be unenforceable the result would be not that the services would be prohibited but that credit would be withheld in the pornography industry, there seemed more to lose than to gain by according to the defendants' public policy defence.

Section 43(1) of the Telecommunications Act 1984. The defendants argued that the telephone sex lines were contrary to those who dialled, if not obscene, were at the very least indecent. However, in his Lordship's judgment, rather than according to the defendants' self-serving assertions of their own criminality, he pre-

ferred to regard their promotional material as self-evident hype.

Obscenity. The vice of the advertisements, Mr Cordara submitted, was in appearing to the reader that he had instant access to a wicked world outside. He argued that that was more corrupting than the passive prose and photographs comprising the rest of the magazine. His Lordship found the submission unavailing.

Common law constraints of corrupting public morals and/or outraging public decency. However shocking some "ordinary decent people" might find the advertisements, they could hardly be said "to be destructive of the very fabric of society" per Lord Simon of Glaisdale in *Knuller v DPP* (1973) AC 413 or "to be contrary to the order of society" per Viscount Simonds in *Shaw v DPP* (1962) AC 220. Indeed, his Lordship found the very suggestion absurd.

His Lordship had therefore rejected all of Mr Cordara's arguments. He admitted to doing so on the ground of public policy. To call the defence advanced under the Telecommunications Act 1984 unavailing was to say that the defendants' public policy defence was untenable.

The defendants argued that the telephone sex lines were contrary to those who dialled, if not obscene, were at the very least indecent. However, in his Lordship's judgment, rather than according to the defendants' self-serving assertions of their own criminality, he pre-

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Pretenders' chance to bridge the generation gap

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

THE US PGA Championship is distinctive for a number of reasons. In recent years it has upgraded itself from its status as the least important of the four major championships to an event worthy of its position in the professional game. It is now on a par with the three other majors and attracts one of the most competitive fields of the year, though a spate of withdrawals this week, including Severiano Ballesteros, Sandy Lyle and Barry Lane, has diminished the event's lustre somewhat.

The PGA starting near here tomorrow, the 78th in all, is being held at the pretentious, 15-hole Valhalla club. The club, with a course designed by Jack Nicklaus, is 15 miles south-east of the city that was the birthplace of Cassius Clay and now honours him with a road named Muhammad Ali Boulevard.

Kentucky, though, is a state better known for fried chicken, horse racing and bluegrass than for zero irons, titanium shafts and golfers. Bluegrass rough, which really does appear to the eye to have a tinge of blue in it, may sound as innocuous as a plant or a flower, but it grows virulently at Valhalla and will undoubtedly play a part in

determining who becomes champion on Sunday. "You could lose a small dog in there," Gary McCord, the American television commentator joked. "They've got some hay out there that you do not want to spend any time in."

The next four days may throw up another of those men destined to be labelled "The Next Generation" as if they are members of some pop group or other. This is the category of players who are perhaps good enough to win a major championship but have not yet done so. Tom Lehman was one such until he won the Open last month.

Other Americans in this category include Justin Leonard, who won his first tournament as a professional last Sunday, Phil Mickelson, David Duval, 14th in the Open, and Steve Stricker, who was 22nd. None is yet 30 and nor is Tim Herron, the prodigiously long hitter who won the Honda Classic in March. Such is his promise that Tiger Woods, the amateur, cannot be excluded either.

At this moment only two Europeans look ready and able to carry the banner of European golf into the millennium and beyond — Colin

Montgomerie, 33, and José María Olazábal. Sadly, the Spaniard, 30 earlier this year, shows no signs of recovering from rheumatoid arthritis in his feet sufficiently to rejoin his rivals in the world of golf.

Montgomerie's age may place him at the older end of the spectrum of those who have yet to win a major championship, but performances such as tying with Steve Elkington and losing this title in a play-off last year suggest that it is only a matter of time before he wins a major championship.

On a flight into Louisville on Monday night, Montgomerie and Woosnam sat up in the front of the plane while Langer, inconspicuous in jeans, trainers and tinted glasses, seemed crunched, frail and middle-aged in a window seat near the back. Later the German said that he was better but not yet fully recovered from the left shoulder injury that had caused him to withdraw from the Open three weeks ago.

Standing there in the milling crowd of the airport searching for a trolley on which to carry his luggage to a courtesy car, Langer looked his age — 38. He was not the golden hero of years gone by. He, Woosnam, 38, and Ballesteros, 39, are all now in the senior generation, capable of contending only occasionally, the exception to the rule that the sand in their hour glasses is running out is Nick Faldo, who was 39 on the first day of the Open.

Faldo, the Masters champion, has been in Florida practising under the eye of David Leadbetter for one week, playing early in the mornings before it became too hot. He, as well as anyone, knows how time is running out for him.

"I don't have any problems getting mentally into the mode, but physically it's sometimes very difficult," Faldo said. "Sometimes you can see the clock running down and your swing is not right and that is frustrating. That is always the toughest bit, getting the golf swing right at the right time."

THE lightweight eight from Denmark not only underlined their status as world champions but their ability to stay cool under pressure on the first day of the world championships at Strathclyde yesterday, when an inspired British challenge pushed them to the limit of their resources.

Great Britain produced a blistering first 1,000 metres, relegating the Danes to fourth place. At 1,500 metres, the British were still leading, but the world champions had overtaken the Americans and Japanese and were pressing Britain, who were, ominously, already rating 39 strokes a minute. Britain's last 500 metres took 1min 32sec; the Danes clocked 1:28 and were a length clear at the line.

Lennie Robertson, the British coach, offered no excuses

afterwards. "We went out to beat them and failed; we live to fight another day," he said. That other day could be Sunday's final, assuming the eight reaches the last six in an incredibly close field. Italy and Germany went faster than Denmark in the other heat.

Of the nine British crews racing yesterday, six, including the eight, will have to face repechages. The direct pro-

gression successes were achieved by the men's heavyweight coxed four, with some ease, and the men's lightweight squad, narrowly, from the Spanish. Both are through to their semi-finals.

The women's lightweight pair of Alison Brownless and Jane Hall, who achieved Britain's only first place of the opening day, booked a direct place in Sunday's final. The

duo looked much happier than seven weeks ago, when they just failed to qualify for Atlanta as a double scull. They led from the first stroke and the experienced Brownless said afterwards: "We knew we had it, and it then became a case of conserving energy and remaining relaxed."

The world champions from the United States won the other heat, faster at every

point of the race, but this did not seem to deter Hall. "It will be pay-back time on Sunday," she confidently predicted.

The men's heavyweight coxed pair of Dave Beckley and Damian West, an Oxford Blue of earlier this year, threatened to achieve another first place for Britain in the opening race. They led to 1,500 metres, before an eye-catching last 500 from Schulte and Prevot, the experienced Frenchmen, relegated them to second place and a repechage route to the final.

Sue Appelboom, who finished third in her lightweight sculls heat, knew that Constanta Burca, of Romania, an Atlanta Olympic double sculls gold medal-winner, could be a problem in her first race, but Burca, Appelboom and the crowd were awestruck by the speed of the unheralded Sarah Garner, from the United States.



The United States women's coxed four on their way to defeat against the powerful Romanians at Strathclyde. Photograph: Martin Cleaver

Dashing Denmark weather the storm

BY MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT

RESULTS FROM STRATHCLYDE

HEAVYWEIGHTS
MEN'S COXED PAIRS: Qualifiers for final: Heat one: France 7min 58sec; Heat two: Holland 7:58. Great Britain (Boddy and West) 8:05 go to repechage.
MEN'S COXED FOURS: Qualifiers for semi-finals: Heat one: Yugoslavia 6:46; Great Britain 6:48; Italy 6:50. Heat two: Russia 6:42; France 6:43; Germany 6:49. Heat three: Romania 6:58; Czech Republic 6:39; Portugal 6:43.
WOMEN'S COXLESS PAIRS: Qualifiers for final: Heat one: Romania 7:24; Heat two: Denmark 7:27. Great Britain 7:31 go to repechage.

LIGHTWEIGHTS
MEN'S COXLESS PAIRS: Qualifiers for semi-finals: Heat one: Denmark 7:01; Italy 7:07; Czech Republic 7:13. Heat two: Ireland 6:56; Germany 7:00; Sweden 7:03. Heat three: Australia 6:58; France 6:59; United States 7:04; Great Britain (Frye and Brown) 8:00 go to repechage.
MEN'S SINGLE SCULLS: Qualifiers for semi-finals: Heat one: United States 7:14; Heat two: Denmark 7:10; Heat three: Russia 7:13. Heat four: Czech Republic 7:18; Great Britain (Long) 7:21 go to repechage.
MEN'S QUAD SCULLS: Qualifiers for semi-finals: Heat one: Ireland 6:05; Czech Republic 6:11; Great Britain 6:13. Heat two: Germany 6:12; United States 6:13; Denmark 6:15. Heat three: Italy 6:09; France 6:09; Austria 6:12.
MEN'S EIGHTS: Qualifiers for final: Heat one: Denmark 5:57; Heat two: Germany 5:55; Great Britain 6:00 go to repechage.
WOMEN'S COXLESS PAIRS: Qualifiers for final: Heat one: United States 6:09; Heat two: Great Britain (Brownless and Hall) 6:13.
WOMEN'S SINGLE SCULLS: Qualifiers for semi-finals: Heat one: France 8:04; Heat two: United States 7:53. Heat three: Poland 8:07; Great Britain (Appelboom) 8:11, goes to repechage.

Estrada throws down continental challenge

CONTINENTAL players dominated the first qualifying round of the Girls' British Open Amateur Golf Championship in wet and miserable conditions at Formby yesterday.

Maria Estrada, of Spain, led the way with a splendid 69, two under par, and then followed girls from France, Denmark and Spain before the first Britons, Kirsty Taylor, of Sandford Springs, and Emma Weeks, of Bramshot Hill.

Rebecca Hudson, the Yorkshire teenager who last week retained her English girls' title and was a reserve for the Great Britain and Ireland Curtis Cup team which beat

the United States at Killarney in June, made a solid, if not spectacular start to the one junior title to have eluded her in an impressive career.

Hudson was runner-up two years ago and a beaten semi-finalist last August. She is the main hope of Britain in the championship this week and started with a four-over-par 75, which meant she required another solid performance to go through to the matchplay phase.

Kate Stark, 16, from the Brynmill club in Barry, who last week won the Welsh title for the third time in four years, made virtually certain of going through with steady rounds of 76 and 75.

IN BRIEF

Golf bids for 2004 Olympics

GOLF may be included in the Olympic Games of 2004, despite the failure of the sport to make it, as planned, to Atlanta this year.

Michael Bonallack, the secretary of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club and the World Amateur Golf Council, which was formed with the Olympics in mind, said yesterday that talks were likely with representatives of the International Olympic Committee later in the year, but that the sport would not be included at Sydney in 2000.

It still has to be decided whether golf in the Olympics should be a professional or amateur event.

Jackman win

Squash: Cassie Jackman, from Norfolk, reached the semi-finals of the Australian Open in Melbourne with a 9-2, 9-0, 10-8 defeat of Linda Charman, from Sussex. She will next meet the No 1 seed and world champion, Michele Martin, of Australia.

Snow progress

Real Tennis: Julian Snow, the British No 1, reached the quarter-final of the Australian Open, beating Peter Meares, of Australia, 6-4, 6-1, 6-0. The world champion, Robert Fahey, dismissed the Melbourne professional, Adam Mickelburgh, for the loss of only three games.

Len Coldwell

Cricket: Len Coldwell, the former England and Worcestershire fast bowler, has died aged 63. He spent 14 years at New Road and was a member of Worcestershire's first championship-winning side in 1964.

The feast of sport that leaves you fit to burst

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

I sport be the food of life, play on! Give me excess of it! Though, come to think of it, excess is exactly what we have all just had. It has been more than just a lot of events; there has been the greatest concentration of sport in history.

I carry a notebook to events, in which I write great thoughts and, occasionally, the score, along with the odd bird list and hectoring reminders about the dentist and doing my expenses. It normally takes me six months to fill a book. I have filled the last one in just eight weeks and with scarcely a single moment for such private concerns as dentists.

All this without going to a Test match, or even a High Court. Nor have I been to the British Grand Prix, Henley, Royal Ascot, or the Open golf. Most of the usual staples of the great summer of sport have passed me by.

I have been to the European football championship. Remember that? I scarcely can myself. I am still in Atlanta, a city in which no one has heard of Gazza. Then came two weeks of Wimbledon: those with long memories will remember Henman and the march of the unknowns.

Then to Atlanta for the Olympic Games, a week of phoney war and previews, followed by the quadrennial 17-day orgy of actual sport — and, in the middle of it all, the sports editor suggests I go to the Charity Shield. You are familiar, no doubt, with the painting entitled "The Olympic Journo Asked to Cover the Charity Shield". Edward Munch was the artist.

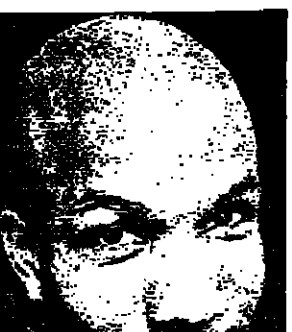
Is the Charity Shield a return to sanity or merely a continuation of the madness? And, if so, is there no end to it? For the pace really is hotting up. More and more sport, more and more televised sport, more and more sport in newspapers. Is our appetite for the stuff insatiable?

It seems so — and yet, I wonder. One thing that makes me wonder is NBC's coverage of the Olympic Games, which

was dominated, not by live action — the one thing television does supremely — but by sentimental featurettes about competitors. In other words, coverage was aimed at the 20 per cent of the audience who did not really care. In the sure and happy knowledge that the other 80 per cent would watch anyway. Viewing figures soared.

True, in order to attract the fringe, you must betray your heartland — but numbers are everything, so stuff the heartland. This is something that happens in all areas of sporting life, not merely in its media coverage.

The FA Carling Premiership has football clubs that the fans cannot afford to go and watch — or, even if they could, they cannot get tickets.



Bailey: memorable

Test matches cater for corporate guests first, life-long cricket enthusiasts second. Wimbledon is the same, but worse.

The theory about betraying the people of your heartland is that you always have them — but is this true? Does not even the most devoted lover grow weary of constant betrayal? What will happen when the fringe follows, the floating voters of sport, grow tired of the stuff? And the prices fall, and sport is no longer such a sure-fire global hit? Well, the good old people who always supported us will still be there, won't they?

Maybe not. Maybe they will find lost interest and found some other, less capricious mistress. As I look out of my hotel room in Atlanta, my bag half-packed behind me and notebook closed to my left, I wonder: is this where the tidal wave of sport broke and rolled back?

We move now to the usual hectic period where football greedily encroaches onto the summer, bringing its icy taste of winter. Cricket and football overlap, giving us, even as the Olympic Games ends, a continuation of the pattern of excess.

All around the edges, we find depressingly sordid stuff, mostly arguments about money, and you think, really, there are times when sport presumes too much on the good nature of its followers and, perhaps, times come when even the most devoted of us begin to pick and choose. Let sport beware. The global fascination with it may already have reached its peak.

Yet the best against the best still stirs the spirit and I have seen that all right: Bailey, Austin, Nemov, Chmerkin, Fu, Johnson, Bonfire, sprinter, high-jumper, gymnast, weightlifter, diver, runner, horse. I fly out from these Games not soured by sport, but as if it were reconfirmed. Though I am still not sure about the Charity Shield.

I open my notebook again. "Expenses," I write. "Denist."

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Ronnie Rubin, world champion in 1983, made a good play on this hand from this year's American Spring Nationals.

Dealer East Love all IMPs

♠ Q 5 4
♥ 10 7 6 4 2
♦ Q J 8 3
♣ J

N E
W S

♠ J 10 8 7 3 2
♥ K 7
♦ A K 7
♣ Q 10

W N E S
Pass 2S Pass 1S
All Pass 3S

Contract: Three Spades by South Lead: queen of hearts

As I mentioned a few weeks ago, it is normal to play South's bid of Three Spades in the above auction as pre-emptive; the reason is that South has several game tries he could use over East's double of Two Spades. Some players add the wrinkle that Three Spades is a game-try asking for good trumps. It keeps the pre-emptive use available on a hand with a good spade suit, as in that case your partner won't have good enough trumps to raise.

East took the opening lead with the ace of hearts and returned the five. West's lead of the queen of hearts was probably from shortage, as East was unlikely to double Two Spades on a poor hand unless he had four hearts. So declarer's problem was to draw trumps in order to cash

the diamonds, but not run into a trump promotion in the process.

Rubin (South) solved it neatly by running the seven of spades at trick three. Although that could have failed if West's spades were AK6 or A6 or K6, nevertheless it was the best percentage line. From AK6 West might well have risen with an honour on the first round, and after his double of Two Spades East was likely to have a singleton.

When East won the king of spades, cashed the ace of clubs and continued hearts, Rubin was able to ruff high and thus restrict the defence to two trump tricks, ace of clubs and ace of hearts.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ARCHIE
a. A homosexual
b. An anti-aircraft gun
c. Crown of Ian vaulding

CHINAMAN
a. A backhand sabre slash
b. A skittle
c. A tricky ball

THREE IN A BED
a. Sweet William
b. Top score at bowls
c. A shove-ha-penny shot

PETER
a. Card play
b. Defensive hold at wrestling
c. A fisherman

Answers on page 42

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Favourites win

In the first round of the British Championship, at present in progress at the East Midlands Conference Centre in Nottingham, the favourites all won comfortably, though Matthew Sadler, the defending champion had to endure some anxious moments before notching the full point.

Grandmaster Mark Hebden defeated Roland Cole, grandmaster John Emms defeated James Vigus, while 12-year-old prodigy, Luke McShane, also opened with a victory, in his case against Alan Spice.

White: James Cobb
Black: Matthew Sadler
British Championship, Nottingham, August 1996

Torre attack

1 d4 Nf6
2 Nf3 e6
3 Bg5 c5
4 e3 cxd4
5 exd4 b7
6 Bc2 Bb7
7 Nbd2 Nc5
8 c3 Qxd7
9 Bxe7 Qxe7
10 g3 0-0
11 Qe2 d6
12 0-0-0 Nd7
13 Kb1 Rf8
14 Ka1 Bc6
15 c4 Nb4
16 Bb1 d5
17 Rf1 cxd4
18 Nxc4 Rf8
19 Nc5 Bb7
20 a3 Nd5
21 Nd7 Qxd7
22 Ne5 Qe8
23 Qd3 g6
24 h4 b5
25 h5 b4
26 Rh1 Nc3
27 hxg6 hxg6
28 bxc3 Rxc3

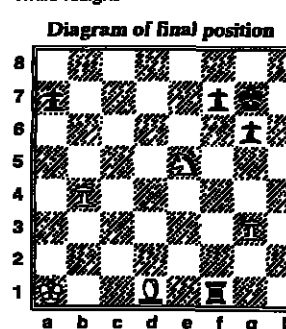


Diagram of final position

Russian invasion
The United States has proved an attractive locale for departing Russian and ex-Soviet grandmasters. As if to emphasise this the annual US Championship, which finished recently in Parsippany contained no less than 11 former Russian or Soviet players out of total of 14. The new US champion is Alex Yermolinsky, who scored 9/13, followed by Gulko and Kaidanov on 8, with Ivanov on 7.5.

New Times book

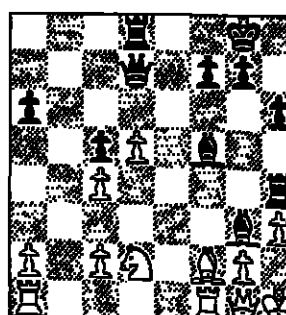
The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from International Grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in The Times, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276 at 56.99+p&p).

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Bagirov - Nikolaevski, Erevan 1999. Black has a powerful concentration of force against the white king, but he must continue carefully. For example, 1... Bxb3 looks strong but is well met by 2 Bg3. What is the correct method?



Solution on page 42



BY EDWARD GORMAN
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

Clubs ran out most of the 29 classes. However, as the wind gradually increased in strength, they eventually cancelled racing for ten of the smaller day boats; but others including the Glenfidhich Melges 24 feet, were already out taking their chances.

With their large mainsails, which cannot be reefed, the Melges ended up being the worst hit in conditions which were way beyond their limit.

By the third mark, three of them had lost their rigs. Dave Johnson's *Cavalendish Cool Cats*, which did so well at the Rover Series at TARBET, Ian Finnell's *Pink Lise* and her skipper Vincent, and apily named *What A Blast*.

Five other Melges were driven onto the shore, hitting the rocks; another, *Interdalia* driven by Charlie Stobart-Hook, retired after one its crew was injured. Of those who ran aground, David

While the Meiges were being ravaged, Greg Peck's Class 1 Rocket 31, *Camp Freddie*, was in even more difficulty. She appeared to have been going to windward towards Gurnard, when she

The first casualty was the Russian maxi *Grand Mistral*, which sailed over her spinnaker and shredded it and later retired. Mike Slade's *Longobarda* lost her main

sheet shackle and could not reef and also retired. Out at the Bridge, John Caulcutt's *Multipep*, otherwise known as Maxima, got into difficulties after the boom got caught between the check stays and the runner.

With 32 people on board,

including 16 visitors, the situation became alarming as the reefing line broke and the huge mainsail flagged with the boat trapped and unable to go about. After retrieving the situation, Caulcutt was forced to retire. The race was won by Ludde Ingvall's *Nicorette*, which alone survived apparently undamaged.

9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susannah
Simons 2.00pm Concerto. Paganini
(Violin Concerto No 5 in A minor) 3.00
Jamie Crok 6.00 Newsnight 6.30
Sonata. Mozart (Sonata, Duo, in B flat
major) 7.00 Gardening Forum (T
Evening Concert Chabrier (Espana); De
Falta (Concerto for harpsichord, flute,
oboe, clarinet, violin and cello; Nights in
the Gardens of Spain); Rodrigo
(Concerto de Aranjuez); Albenc (Piano
Concerto No 1) 10.00 Michael Mannin

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Nicky Horne 7.00 Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Randal Lee Ross

7.00 Ernst (Fantaisie brillante... sur Otello de Rossini)
BBC Proms 1996, live from the Albert Hall in London. Lars Vogt, piano, Stephen Richardson, bass, the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, under Martyn Brabbins. MacCunn (The Ship of the Fools; Schumann

7.50 When East Meets West
8.10 Proms Part 2, conducted
by Tan Dun. Tan Dun (on
Taoism; Orchestral Theatre II:
Re) **8.55** Perfect Pitch. See
Choice **9.15** Proms Part 3,
conducted by Marilyn
Brabbins. Walton (Symphony
No 2)
10.05 The Colours of Music, Philip

10.30 Le Travail du peintre. A selection of portraits of 20th-century artists in poems by Paul Eluard set to music by Francis Poulenc. With Gerard Souzay, baritone, and Dalton Baldwin, piano

life and work of the poet David Jones, who is probably best known for his First World War epic *In Parenthesis* (r)
11.30 Composer of the Week: Handel (r)
12.30am Jazz Notes, with Digby Fairweather
1.00 Through the Night, with Dora Macleod includes
 1.00 Lully, Chaperrier, Rebel and Rameau 2.40 Kodaly and

3.00 News; **The Afternoon Shift**
4.00 News; **4.05 Kaleidoscope**,
Paul Gambaccini views the
sci-fi blockbuster
Independence Day

4.45 **Short Story: Old and Long**
Remorse, by Jude Weeks
Read by Colleen Prendergast

5.00 **PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast**
5.55 Weather

6.00 **Six O'Clock News**

6.30 **Brain of Britain 1996 (r)**

7.00 **News (r) 7.05 The Archers**

7.20 **The Deep Season:**
Troubled Waters. The
second of three programmes
on the world's oceans asks if
they

8.00 *The Deep Season: Of Tide and Man.* See Choice

8.30 *The Deep Season: 0-20,000 Leagues Under the Sea.* The round-the-world yachtsman Mike Golding turns his attention to the effect of man's activities on the sea (2/4)

9.00 *Costing the Earth,* with Mark Whithaker

9.30 *Knitology* with Susan

0.00 **The World Tonight**, with
Kabel Hilton

0.45 **Book at Bedtime: Changes
of Address**, Juliet Stevenson
reads Lee Langley's novel
(8/8) (t)

1.00 **Educated Evans**, by Edgar
Wallace. A comedy narrated
by Freddie Jones (3/4) (t)

1.30 **Twenty Minutes**

1.45 The Shuttleworths (5/6) (I)
 2.00 News incl 12.27am approx
 Weather
 2.30 The Late Book The Secret
 History (8/15) 12.48
 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As
 World Service

97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-
 4. FM

W. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW
WORLD SERVICE, MW 848; LW
M 100-102, VIRGIN RADIO, FM
UK, MW 1053, 1089, Television
r Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary
ory and John McNamara.

1952-1953

PLATE 1

10-10-68

1

1



BY DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

jump of 18.09 metres is the longest of the season but he fouled in the last two and he is capable of going further. He was convinced to jump at least 18.20 metres with the benefit of Sestriere, he may not be his world record of 18.22 more often than not though blighted by high winds or, as was the case last controversy.

Ivan Pedrosa, from went on to win the long world championships hurp, came down from

he had replaced the world record video evidence of amateur cameraman blue turning his wind gauge.

In the verdict of the (Fidal), which mark should not 10 attempts made to jump compete within the legal by Pedross.

Cuban saw the market attempting to blow. The official No Gemello, so the Italian federal

tion. Italianha Gemello h owns Fern cars to athl in Sestriere Johnson.

world reco United States would com having wor now becom dler in hist depends on Sestriere w winds blow Jackson,

seems to h the hurdles

Jarrett, twice a world champion silver medal-winner in the four years but who has had an even more wretched than him. Jarrett has been disqualified for false starts and, at the Olympics, he hit the seventh hurdle and tumbled to the ground.

The most publicised false start of the Olympics was Linford Christie's 100 metres and his participation in the 200 metres. Christie, a Sefton, Merseyside, appears to have to do with a pay day than anything else. He was disqualified where he might have finished first in Atlanta had he not been disqualified. Only Davidson Ezinwa, a Nigerian, was disqualified in the Olympic final.

collaborate 5/34) (r)
10.30 The Travail du peintre. A selection of portraits of 20th-century artists in poems by Paul Eluard set to music by Francis Poulenc. With Gerard Schreyer, baritone, and Dalton Baldwin, piano
10.45 A Map of David Jones. Jeremy Hooker explores the life and work of the poet David Jones, who is probably best known for his First World War epic *In Parenthesis* (r)
11.30 Corner of the Wheel: Handel in
12.30am Jazz Notes, with Digby Fairweather
1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod includes 1.00 Emily, Carpenter, Rebel and Rastus 2.00 Kordaly and Schumann 3.00 Alphonse

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 41
ARGUMENT

RUGBY LEAGUE

League

As to follow in footsteps

By IAN IRVINE

Impasse over a persistent injury which Harris says means that he cannot play and which Warrington insist is not so bad, Harris missed the last match at London last Sunday, although the club physician declared him fit.

South Wales would dearly love to capture Harris, even as a joint league-union player, but Warrington would have to reduce their world record price drastically. Cross-ownership would spread the cost, but is hardly an ideal solution because of the crossover of the seasons and competing demands.

Trevor Morris, the Featherstone Rovers chairman, is proposing a merger

returns in fashion

ENTS STAFF

skills" and claiming: "I have never felt so fit in all my years on tour."

Amanda Coetzer, the No 10 seed from South Africa, overpowered Rita Grande, of Italy, 6-3, 6-2, while Karina Hahsudova, the No 12 seed from Slovakia, brushed aside Barbara Schett, of Austria, 6-1, 6-0. The other seeds in action on the opening day — Amy Frazier, of the United States, Nathalie Tauziat, of France, and Elena Likhovseva, of Russia — all won without dropping a set.

For Katarina Studenikova, of Slovakia, there was reason to remember good times past. By beating Gala Leon Garcia, of Spain, 2-6, 6-3, 7-6, she

3.00 News: The Afternoon Shift
4.00 News: 4.05 *Kaleidoscope*.
 Paul Gambaccini views the
 sex-frockbusters
Days of the Beast
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 Remorse, by Jude Weeks
 Remorse, by Coleen Fendergast
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7.00 News (1) 7.05 *The Archers*
7.20 The Deep Season:
Troubled Waters. The
 second of three programmes
 on the world's oceans asks if
 they are in peril
8.00 The 1996 Guide: Of Time
and Man. See Choice
8.30 The Deep Season: 0-20,000
Miles Under the Sea
 The round-the-world
 yachtsman Mike Gilding
 turns his attention to the
 secret of man's activities on
 the coast (2)
9.00 Costing the Earth, with Mark
Whitaker
9.30 Kaleidoscope (1) 9.55
Weather
0.00 The World Tonight, with
Isabel Hilton
0.00 Book at Bedtime: Changes
in the Cities. Lady Juliet Stevenson
 reads *Levi Ljung's* novel
 (28/1)
1.00 Educated Evens, by Edgar
Walters A comedy narrated
 by Eileen O'Hara

1.30 Twenty Players, Frankie
 Swoop (5/6) (r)
 1.45 The Shuttleworths (5/6) (r)
 2.00 News incl 12.27am approx
 Weather
 2.30 The Late Book: The Secret
 History (8/15) 12.48
 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As
 World Service

4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW
WORLD SERVICE MW 848; LW
100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM
UK MW 1053, 1089, Television
r Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary
ory and John McNamara.



Conclusions, convictions, contradictions

In the 1960s, when *The Fugitive* was the cornerstone of a nation's viewing, somebody always knew somebody who had an American cousin who knew whether the one-armed man was ever found. "Don't tell us!" we said in our house, clamping our hands to our ears and singing "La La La" whenever a premature *Fugitive* revelation threatened. America was an impossibly distant place at the time; only the Beatles and David Frost had been. Thus was the surprise outcome of *The Fugitive* safely preserved. Looking back on it, I now wonder whether those "American cousins" were wicked inventions by people seeking spurious self-importance. Damn. Thirty years it has taken me to realise this.

Murder One finishes tonight on BBC2, and my point is this: anybody still innocent of the solution to Jessica Costello's murder has sung "La La La" for five months at

commendable volume, and I count myself among them. I have no idea who killed Jessica Costello, but it has been a huge effort to retain my innocence, especially given that Sky TV sent me a tape of "Chapter 23" several months ago. Neil Avedon was found guilty last night, but I am sure he isn't; he was framed by Richard Cross, and now poses a suicide risk in jail. That's all I know.

Meanwhile Teddy (bald hero defence lawyer with big ears) bestirres Los Angeles like an impatient colossus, and last night the defence case turned on a sudden serendipitous inspiration worthy of Jack Lord in the heyday of *Hawaii Five-O*. At a newsstand, Teddy spots a surveillance camera and is struck by a thought. Staring at the lens, he narrows his piggy eyes. "There is a camera hidden in Jessica Costello's apartment," he growls outside, holding a car door. "I know it in my guts."

Wow. Teddy's infallible wisdom throughout *Murder One* has been pretty hard to take, actually. Last night a member of his youthful team even made a helluva speech that went, "And that, ladies and gentlemen, is why his name is on the door!" The viewer's sympathies have been cleverly managed throughout: rarely has an abstract moral notion of justice interfered with our concern for the joy or suffering of the handsome dramatic personae. Neil's horror of prison (where a "pretty boy like Neil" is destined for special problems) is reason enough to worry on his behalf, leaving his supposed moral deserts entirely aside.

Will poor Neil languish long in jail? Or will he take his own life, minutes before the cavalry arrive? Whatever the answer, one group of people who will not care much about Neil's pretty-boy fate are the

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

ex-con theatre company who helped to make *War Cries* (Channel 4) — a plea to reform the torturous parole system. These were men who had suffered "knock-backs" in prison: teased with freedom and then denied it, sometimes after months of hoping. Special pleading is the point of a programme such as *War Cries*, yet it still sticks in the gut as something to see armed robbers feeling sorry

for themselves. Directing and writing the half-hour film was Lady Alice Douglas — famous for marrying a prison inmate on a home visit. She described her pain when Simon received a knock-back, and it sounded quite awful except that a still small voice objected "But you didn't have to marry him, did you?" In terms of audience sympathy, the trickiest moment involved an after-dinner discussion among Simon's friends, over which Alice gave brief career histories. One of Simon's chums had committed 36 armed robberies. "But he is now a gentle man, since he gave up crack," said Alice. Oh good.

To be fair, the case made against the parole system was quite compelling, but so was the case made in its favour. As Ann Widdecombe pointed out, parole boards are not bothered about raising and dashing hopes; their purpose is to protect the public against prisoners who may reoffend. One long-

time jail-widow complained she had lost heart in the parole system because her husband was repeatedly knocked back. Oddly it never occurred to her to lose heart in her husband instead.

On an evening in which justice wrestled with emotional concerns, Justice for Lynne (Channel 4) took the biscuit. This was the familiar story of Flo Siddons's legal groundbreaking prosecution (and persecution) of Michael Brookes in 1978. Eighteen years later, he finally stands convicted of Lynne's murder, and the Siddons family are weeping with joy and relief. Watching their story, the viewer was likewise expected to weep with joy and relief — vindication after 18 years! What a struggle! The only fly in the ointment (and such a little fly, what did it matter?) was that the

actual evidence against Brookes was either omitted from this programme or was ridiculously thin.

Brookes looked guilty, certainly — which is all you need on television. Contrasting with the cool, dapper and determined Siddons family — walking advertisements equally for the Old Testament and the miracle of the travel iron — Brookes and his wife slumped and sweated in front of cameras, their cigarette smoke curling round unwashed hair. As Philip Whitehead cheerfully pointed out, the 18-year delay in bringing this case has ruined Brookes's life, too — the Siddons family "hounded him", as they admit. But their treatment of Brookes was always justified, in their opinion, because whatever he might suffer, he was alive while Lynne was not. Whoever coined that thing about an eye for an eye has some very big fans in the Siddons family.

- 6.00am Business Breakfast** (22842)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (CeeFax) (51131)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (CeeFax) (2167281)
9.20 Della Smith's Summer Collection (i) (CeeFax) (s) (7784552)
9.50 Gormet Ireland (s) (5128552)
10.00 FILM: Doctor in the House (1954) Classic medical comedy, with Dirk Bogarde, Kenneth More and James Robertson. Directed by Ralph Thomas (10700688)
12.00 News, Regional News & Weather (CeeFax) (1827668)
12.05pm The Alphabet Game (s) (4080571)
12.35 Neighbours (CeeFax) (s) (8991674)
1.00 News & Weather (CeeFax) (56200)
1.30 Regional News and Weather (4210223)
1.40 Florida Folk British expatriates (2135378)
2.05 More Secret Gardens (5296910) 2.15 *Lovely Joe* (i) (CeeFax) (s) (4554610)
3.10 Where's the Jack? Julia Carling presents a six-part series on car maintenance (9938842) (s) (7195717)
3.25 Snowy River — the McGregor Saga (i) (s) (7195717)
4.50 Knots Landing (i) (CeeFax) (s) (2704256)
5.35 Neighbours (i) (CeeFax) (s) (891939)
6.00 News & Weather (CeeFax) (194)
6.30 Regional News Magazines (674)
7.00 Small Talk Ronnie Corbett hosts the show in which grown-ups must unravel the minds of children (CeeFax) (s) (3991)
7.30 Mastermind From Drapers' Hall in the City of London. The specialist subjects are Hergé, Aphra Behn, Lawrence of Arabia and John Henry Newman (CeeFax) (s) (858)
8.00 Birds of a Feather The sisters try to stay out of trouble while keeping an eye on their man-hungry neighbour Doris (i) (CeeFax) (s) (899113)
8.50 Points of View (CeeFax) (s) (119303)
9.00 News, Regional News, Weather (CeeFax) (2484)
9.30 Inside Story: Caring for Christopher (CeeFax) (s) (541229)
10.20 BBC Proms 1996: Dawn at Dusk In the first of four programmes, the American soprano Dawn Upshaw sings American operatic arias and a selection of show songs accompanied by the London Sinfonietta under Eric Stern (1879804)
11.40 FILM: The Andromeda Strain (1971) Part of the Alien Invasion season when a research satellite carrying a lethal extraterrestrial organism crashes into a small town in Arizona, a group of top scientists are rounded up in an effort to identify and control the potentially plague-like germ. The director Robert Wise maintains suspense throughout and the special effects are impressive for the time. Arthur Hill stars as a scientist prepared to sacrifice himself for humanity. Also starring David Wayne, James Olson, Kate Reid, Paula Kelly and George Mitchell (CeeFax) (2342022)
1.45am-1.50am Weather (6021750)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode
 The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your VCR to automatically switch to a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+™ ("V"), PlusCode™ ("P") and Video Program Numbers are trademarks of Gammat Development Ltd.

- 6.00am Open University: Complex Numbers** (3839910) 6.25 *Rabbis and Chalk* (3839910) 6.50 *The Other Virtues* (3839910)
7.15 See Hear News (CeeFax) (6274026)
7.30 Mr. Benn (7315151) 7.45 *Lassie* (1179587) 8.10 *Smurfs' Adventures* (5600910) 8.35 *Get Your Own Back* (2539213) 9.05 *Spiderman* (2164194) 9.25 *Smart* (7790113) 9.50 *Puppydog Tales* (3398378) 10.00 *Playdays* (7408858)
10.25 Man in a Suitcase (CeeFax) (2007378) 11.15 *A Passion for Angling* (9558223) 12.05pm *The Adams Family* (CeeFax) (6055688) 12.30 *Making Tracks* (49823) 1.00 *Melvin and Muriel's Musical-Grams* (4513711) 1.15 *A-Z of Food* (24159910) 1.25 *Wear It Well* (45116620)
1.40 The Oprah Winfrey Show (CeeFax) (8287571) 2.20 *Crawshaw Paints on Holiday* (8755073) 2.45 *A Life of Knowledge* (4602200) 3.00 *News* (1008026) 3.05 *The Natural World* (1077649) 3.55 *News* (3581397)
4.00 Cartoon (5730484) 4.05 *The Family Ness* (5739755) 4.10 *Run the Risk* (2324587) 4.30 *Cartoon Critters* (571) 5.00 *Newsworld* (CeeFax) (3031561) 5.10 *Byker Grove* (i) (CeeFax) (4536991)
5.35 The Phil Silvers Show (b/w) (i) (828281) 6.00 *The Champions* (CeeFax) (799477) 6.50 *A Week to Remember* (228945)



Britain's golden girls (7.00pm)

- 7.00 Growing Old Disgracefully** Part of the *Coming of Age* season (1533)
7.30 The Dynasty: Heirs of Uncertainty (1993) A privileged heir is no guarantee of security to the children of Pakistan's ruling elite (CeeFax) (s) (200)
8.00 School Francis Combe School welcomes an habitual truant (CeeFax) (s) (7151)
8.30 Wild Harvest with Nick Naim. Nick goes dredging for scallops and hunts for a roebuck (CeeFax) (s) (2216)
9.00 Murder One: Chapter 23 — The End Jessica's murderer is uncovered (CeeFax) (s) (447291)
9.45 WrinklyVision A comic look at America's old folk on television (CeeFax) (s) (517129)
10.30 Newsnight (CeeFax) (939281)
11.15 What Are You Going to Do? Part of the Coming of Age season (81804)
12.00 Grace Under Fire Comedy (s) (17840)
12.30am The Learning Zone: Open University: the Financinical Chapter (CeeFax) (s) (18172) 1.00 *The Big Picture* (22332) 1.30 *Imagining New Worlds* (79798) 2.00 *Great Outdoors Collection* (s) (56021) 4.00-6.00 *Languages: Italianissimo* (CeeFax) (2342022) 6.30 *Mat* (86175)

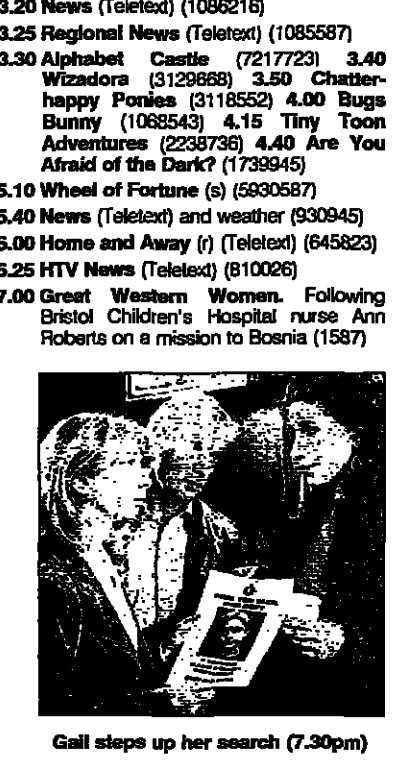
CHOICE
Growing Old Disgracefully BBC2, 7.00pm
 Six women, who first got together in 1989 and have been close friends since, describe how they have made light of old age. If their behaviour is not exactly disgraceful, unless you count a spot of nude bathing, they have even to accept that life has to stop at 65, or even 78. They go on holiday together, write and publish books and are determined to enjoy themselves. We meet them during a rambling weekend in Suffolk, during which they sing, dance, go swimming and think positively. At 77, Edith declares that she is still open to new challenges. Mary, who is still in her seventies, continues to use eye make-up and dye her hair. Shirley, a comparative youngster at 65, declares that she is not prepared to be good and nice and kind, at least not all the time. Rows of pill bottles are a reminder of advancing years but the minds remain sharp and active.

Short Stories: Running Wild BBC1, 8.30pm
 Last winter was the coldest for 20 years in some parts of Britain, providing perfect conditions for mucksters. These are participants in the sport of sled dog racing. The mushers will have to spend the afternoon with muddy tracks, and their husky dogs pulling three-wheeled rigs instead of proper sleds. But with snow promised, a British Cup competition is arranged in the Cairngorms. It attracts the best in the land, including the current British champion. And then, horror of horrors, a thaw sets in. It looks as though the mushers will have to spend the afternoon watching Scotland's rugby team on the telly. Natalie Bowman, a hot tip for the cup, says tartly that she has not travelled 600 miles for this. Robin McPerson's film weaves deftly through the embarrassment.

Inside Story: Caring for Christopher BBC1, 9.30pm
 Charles Stewart and Malcolm Hurst first filmed Christopher Roberts in 1991 for a memorable series on the Lewisham council. Now they bring his story up to date. Christopher has epilepsy. The condition is graphically illustrated in the opening sequence, when he rounds on his classmates and treats them to an earful of foul language. His volatile, often aggressive, behaviour goes with an absence of short-term memory and, at 14, he has a mental age of seven. It would be good to report that the film has a happy outcome. Christopher's special school does its best and the patience and devotion of his parents is heroic. But epilepsy has no miracle cure. Presented with the minimum of commentary, and never trying to judge, the film is a sympathetic study of dedicated people with an intractable problem.

WrinklyVision BBC2, 9.45pm
 With the distinguished exception of *The Golden Girls*, the American television networks tend to pretend that the older generation does not exist. This does not mean that what Americans call seniors are entirely excluded from the screen. Where NBC and CBS decline to treat regional and local channels are full of elderly grannies and a few grandpas refusing to act their age. The actress Katherine Helmond presents a lively anthology of such turns, though some would have been better left undiscovered. The night of the geriatric ballet dancers creaking through their steps is less an advertisement for old age than an argument against it. Talking of advertisements, they do provide work for old Hollywood stars. Here is June Allyson at 79, promoting an aid for the incontinent. Peter Waymark

- HTV**
6.00am GMTV (4270688)
9.25 Highway Across the Galaxy and Turn Left (i) (Teletext) (s) (7794939)
9.50 Hope and Gloria (5113620)
10.20 News (Teletext) (5443878)
10.25 Regional News (Teletext) (5445649)
10.30 FILM: Dance Academy (1988) with Gayn Gory and Paula Nichols. A ballet academy is transformed into a school for modern dance by a new teacher. Directed by Ted Mathon (40579620)
12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (8116552)
12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (8814571)
12.55 Shortland Street (s) (8992822) 1.25 *Coronation Street* (i) (Teletext) (s) (8955284) 2.00 *Home and Away* (Teletext) (s) (87567026)
2.25 FILM: Once Upon a Spy (1980) with Ted Danson, Mary Louise Weller and Christopher Lee. A technical genius is coerced into the world of espionage by his boss, to retrieve a computer owned by Nasa. Directed by Ivan Nagy. Concludes tomorrow (9214674)
3.20 News (Teletext) (1086216)
3.25 Regional News (Teletext) (1085587)
3.30 Alphabet Castle (7217723) 3.40 *Wizards* (3129888) 3.50 *Chatterbox* (3129888) 4.00 *Bugs Bunny* (108354) 4.15 *Time Capsule* (228736) 4.40 *Are You Afraid of the Dark?* (713945)
5.10 Wheel of Fortune (s) (5930587)
5.40 News (Teletext) and weather (930945)
6.00 Home and Away (i) (Teletext) (845823)
6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (810026)
7.00 Great Western Women Following Bristol Children's Hospital nurse Ann Roberts on a mission to Bosnia (1587)



Gall steps up her search (7.30pm)

- 7.30 Coronation Street** Will Derek's birthday turn out to be all he hopes for? Don joins the hunt for Nicky (Teletext) (246)
8.00 Inspector Morse: The Dead of Jericho Another chance to see the first television dramatist featuring Chief Dect's enigmatic Chief Inspector, as he is teamed with Sergeant Lewis. Starring John Thaw and Kevin Whately (i) (Teletext) (s) (2303)
10.00 News (Teletext) and weather (16007)
10.30 Regional News (Teletext) (845039)
10.40 Champions League Highlights (404910)
11.40 FILM: Florida Straits (1986) starring Paul Julia, Fred Ward and Daniel Jenkins. A former prisoner searches for a fortune in gold that was buried in the Cuban jungle during the Bay of Pigs Invasion. Directed by Mike Hodges (446939)
1.30 God's Gift (40382) 2.30 *Cyber Cafe* (72972) 3.00 *Dear Nick* (52343) 4.00 *Bushell on the Box* (i) (84717) 4.30 *The Time ... the Place* (i) (30311) 5.00 *Hot Gospel* (i) (s) (15514) 5.30 *News*

- HTV WALES**
As HTV West except:
6.25pm Wales Tonight (810026)
7.00-7.30 Cafe Biagi (1587)

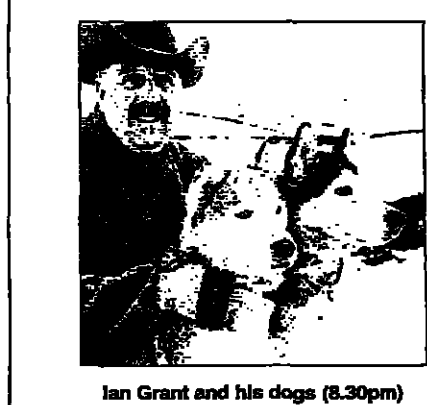
- WESTCOUNTRY**
As HTV West except:
10.30am People Like Us (40879620)
12.55pm Coronation Street (8992822)
1.25-1.55 Cross Wits (83417378)
1.55 Home and Away (58132281)
2.25 Healthy by Nature (87560113)
2.55-3.20 A Country Practice (1049303)
3.10-3.40 Home and Away (5930587)
6.00 Westcountry Live (51668)
7.00-7.30 Wheel of Fortune (1587)
10.40-11.40 Newquay Surf Championships (404910)

- CENTRAL**
As HTV West except:
10.30am People Like Us (40879620)
12.55pm Home and Away (5930587)
1.25 Cross Wits (83417378)
1.35 A Country Practice (89130620)
2.20 People's Verdict (87561842)
2.50-3.20 Women Talking (5459842)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5930587)
6.25 Central News and Weather (810026)
7.00-7.30 Wheel of Fortune (1587)
10.40 The European Match (404910)
11.40 Phoenix (443674)
12.40am Bushell on the Box (8254156)
1.10 God's Gift (768098)
2.15 Dear Nick (219359)
3.15 In Focus (4372446)

- MERIDIAN**
As HTV West except:
9.50-10.20 Sandokan (5113620)
10.30 Wozzel Gummidge Down Under (24026)
11.00 Dogtanian and the Three Musketeers (5468842)
11.55 Dungeons and Dragons (8241246)
12.55pm Coronation Street (8992822)
1.25 Home and Away (58132281)
1.55 Shortland Street (89130620)
2.20 Murder, She Wrote (8884133)
5.10 Home and Away (5930587)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (262)
6.30 Animal Country (842)
7.00-7.30 Wheel of Fortune (1587)
5.00am FreeScreen (15514)

- SIC**
Starts: 6.35 Sharky and George (2807378)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (48823) 7.30 *California Dreams* (7879674) 9.25 *The Secret World of Alex Mack* (7776533) 9.55 *Hangin' with Mr. Cooper* (8915026) 10.30 *Pink Panther* (8784216) 10.45 *Rocky's Modern Life* (8846216) 11.05 *Cybernetic* (8574649) 12.00 *Mork and Mindy* (84020) 12.00 *Sitcom* (49910) 12.30 *Terraviva* (4511200) 1.35 *Film: In the Good Old Summer* (10533129) 3.30 *Countdown* (240) 4.00 *Backstage* (755) 4.30 *Elstree* (82250) 5.00 *Newsnight* (832115) 6.15 *Heno* (529622) 7.00 *Pobol Y Cwm* (923533) 7.25 *Bancor* (198736) 8.00 *Elstree* (82250) 8.30 *Geddiseth* (8045) 10.00 *Gothic* (14649) 10.30 *American Gothic* (89533) 11.30 *Cybil* (22736) 12.00 *My Night with Handal* (80428)

- CHANNEL 4**
6.35am Sharky and George (i) (2807378)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (48823)
9.00 California Dreams (i) (7879674)
9.25 The Secret World of Alex Mack (i) (s) (7776533) 9.55 *Hangin' with Mr. Cooper* (i) (Teletext) (s) (8915026) 10.30 *Pink Panther* (i) (s) (8784216)
10.45 Rocky's Modern Life (i) (s) (8846216) 11.05 *Cybernetic* (i) (Teletext) (s) (8574649) 12.00 *Mork and Mindy* (i) (s) (84020) 12.30 *Sitcom* (i) (Teletext) (s) (49910) 1.00 *Sesame Street* (i) (s) (9724910)
1.55 The Mermiad and the Beachcomber French animation by J.-F. Langouerie (89147910)
2.15 FILM: I Didn't Do It (1945 b/w). Comedy thriller with George Formby as a would-be entertainer who becomes the target for a killer. Directed by Marcel Varnel (Teletext) (89147910)
4.00 Backstage (Teletext) (s) (755) 4.30 *Countdown* (Teletext) (s) (240) 5.00 *Ricki Lake* (Teletext) (s) (6005587) 5.45 *Terraviva* (10533)
6.00 Party of Five (Teletext) (s) (758115)
6.50 Terraviva. Cartoon fun (140113)
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (938281)
7.55 The Slot (271842)
8.00 Brookside. (Teletext) (s) (2649)



Ian Grant and his dogs (8.30pm)

- 8.30 Short Stories: Running Wild** (Teletext) (s) (4484)
9.00 Ellen. Ellen interferes in her friend's love life when she intervenes in a one-night stand (Teletext) (s) (5194)
9.30 Dressing for Breakfast. When Louise (Beattie Edmond) discovers that her mother Liz (Charlotte Cornwell) claims to have found her ideal man, she is not too happy (Teletext) (s) (54755)
10.00 American Gothic. Sheriff Buck may have completed the local post, but he still has to deal with the miraculous activities of the dead Mervyn in her attempts to grab the soul of Caleb (Teletext) (s) (8552)
11.00 The Naked Truth: Real Life Henry Higgins Turns Dork into Duke! Nora gives photographer Dave hints on how to pick up women (Teletext) (s) (7939)
11.30 Cheers (i) (Teletext) (s) (22736)
12.00 Century of Cinema: Cinema of Tears. Nelson Pereira Dos Santos explores 100 years of Latin American film, from Cuba to Brazil, and in so doing uncovers some eternal truths (Teletext) (908953)
1.05am FILM: I, the Worst of All (1990). Maria Luisa Bemberg's film about the writer and poet, Sister Juana Inés de la Cruz. In Spanish with English subtitles (793911)
3.05 Gospel Girls (i) (s) (67038717)
3.20 Billy Boys follows an Orange marching band from Liverpool (i) (s) (25712934). Ends at 3.35

For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday

- SKY ONE**
7.00am *News* (79129) 8.00 *Press Your Luck* (413549) 9.00 *Love Connection* (102556) 9.45 *Oprah Winfrey* (247600)
10.40 *Jeopardy!* (887222) 11.00 *Sally Jessy Raphael* (871871) 12.00 *Comic* (80256) 12.30pm *Designing Women* (84207) 1.00 *Hot* (82222) 2.00 *Gratias* (80399) 3.00 *Court TV* (41354) 3.30 *Quack* (Winfrey) (5039674) 4.15 *Unsub* (1105397)
5.00 *Quantum Leap* (3378) 6.00 *Beverly Hills 90210* (75218) 7.00 *Southbound* (2007) 7.30 *M.A.S.H.* (2553) 8.00 *Space* (400) and Beyond (2907) 9.00 *The Outer Limits* (2571) 10.00 *Quantum Leap* (15368)
11.00 *Highlands* (88489) 12.00 *Live Show* with David Letterman (347225) 12.45am *Napoleon and Josephine: A Love Story* (895088) 1.30 *Shrouded Lion* (49882) 2.00 *Hi-Magic* (i) (8770578)

- SKY NEWS**
News on the hour
6.00am *Bedtime Story* (1984) (57200) *News* (81629) 10.30 *ABC Nightline* (6216) 1.30pm *CBS News* (84910) 2.30 *CBS News* (2910) 3.30 *Destinations* (4755) 6.30 *Tonight with Simon McCoy* (4991) 7.30 *Sports* (8309) 8.30 *News* (81629) 11.30 *CBS News* (56736) 12.00am *ABC World News* (84088) 1.30 *Tonight with Simon McCoy* (4991) 2.30 *Newsnight* (88044) 3.30 *News* (81629) 4.30 *World News* (42595)

- SKY MOVIES**
6.00am *Bedtime Story* (1984) (57200) 8.00 *A Day After Tomorrow* (1984) (57200) 10.00 *Revelation Man* (1994) (2035639) 12.00pm *To Trap a Spy* (1968) (70387) 2.00 *Newsnight* (88044) 3.30 *News* (81629) 4.30 *World News* (42595) 6.00 *Sweet Talker* (1980) (78533) 6.30 *Newsweek in Review* (i) (4255) 8.00 *Revelation Man* (1994) (2035639) 10.00 *Revelation Man* (1994) (2035639) 12.00pm *To Trap a Spy* (1968) (70387) 2.00 *Newsnight* (88044) 3.30 *News* (81629) 4.30 *World News* (42595) 6.00 *Sweet Talker* (1980) (78533) 6.30 *Newsweek in Review* (i) (4255) 8.00 *Revelation Man* (1994) (2035639) 10.00 *Revelation Man* (1994) (2035639) 12.00pm *To Trap a Spy* (1968) (70387) 2.00 *Newsnight* (88044) 3.30 *News* (81629) 4.30 *World News* (42595) 6.00 *Sweet Talker* (1980) (78533) 6.30 *Newsweek in Review* (i) (4255) 8.00 *Revelation Man* (1994) (2035639) 10.00 *Revelation Man* (1994) (2035639) 12.00pm *To Trap a Spy* (1968) (70387) 2.00 *Newsnight* (88044) 3.30 *News* (81629) 4.30 *World News* (42595) 6.00 *Sweet Talker* (1980) (78533) 6.30 *Newsweek in Review* (i) (4255) 8.00 *Revelation Man* (1994) (2035639) 10.00 *Revelation Man* (1994) (2035639) 12.00pm *To Trap a Spy* (1968) (70387) 2.00 *Newsnight* (88044) 3.30 *News* (8162

FOOTBALL 38

Laudrup takes on Gascoigne's role for Rangers

SPORT

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 7 1996

CRICKET 40

England beaten by India in junior World Cup



Record-breaking forward takes stage-managed bow at St James' Park

Shearer given tumultuous homecoming

BY PETER BALL

ALAN SHEARER will have to wait until the Charity Shield on Sunday to make his Newcastle United debut, but he has already made an impressive start at his new club. Just by turning up at St James' Park yesterday, he sent Newcastle into a fever of excitement.

"This is a great day for the club," Sir John Hall, the Newcastle chairman, told the media. "An elite group of supporters inside the ground and a larger gathering outside. This club is going places and Alan, together with all the other players, is an investment for the future. It is very difficult to improve on the squad we have, but I'm sure everyone today will agree that we found the right player."

Indeed they did. Although Shearer's arrival was greeted by rain rather than the sunshine his £15 million transfer probably demanded, thousands of supporters braved the weather in the Leazes End car park at St James' Park to pay homage.

Even meeting the supporters was transformed into a high-gloss affair, despite the weather. Usually, if news of a big-money signing leaks out, little groups of diehards congregate outside the ground hoping for a glimpse of their new player.

Yesterday, the rain might have dissuaded some from attending, estimates of the crowd varying between 5,000 and 15,000, but nonetheless the event was stage-managed from start to finish, more like an American media party than an English sporting occasion. At 2pm, with the press corralled in the Leazes End stand and those lucky few

supporters, guests of the sponsors, sat behind the Newcastle directors appeared and took their seats on a temporary stage erected on the pitch, followed by Kevin Keegan, who was greeted with cheers, then Shearer, to louder cheers.

Keegan was still delighted with his capture, announcing with relish: "Even with the great players we've got, we know that this guy is going to improve them." With expectations already sky-high on Tyneside, such words might have put further pressure on Shearer, who is carrying the tag of being the world's most expensive player, but he was his level-headed self.

His delight at joining his



home-town club 11 years after turning them down as an apprentice was evident, but he gave no sign that the pressure would get to him. "I'm very excited, I've always said I wanted to play for Newcastle and I can't wait for the first game to come," he said.

"I think this team is good enough not only to win the Premier League, but to conquer Europe as well. The price tag is nothing at all to do with me. I don't set the price, all I can do is go out and try to do my best and if that means I score goals which makes me worth £15 million, that's fine."

Shearer was equally dismissive of suggestions that he will feel pressure. "If pressure is going out and enjoying yourself and being sung to by 30,000 or 40,000 fans, then give me more," he said. Every reply was punctuated by roars of approval from the crowd, whose excitement suggested that Shearer actually playing might be unnecessary — all he has to do, it seems, is turn up.

On the decision to leave Blackburn Rovers and join Newcastle, he said: "It was the saddest decision and in another way the best decision of my life. Leaving Blackburn was one of the hardest things I've ever had to do."

"Jack Walker couldn't have tried any harder to keep me and telling him that I was going was very difficult. I had four years of unbelievable success under some great managers and under Jack Walker, who was a great influence."

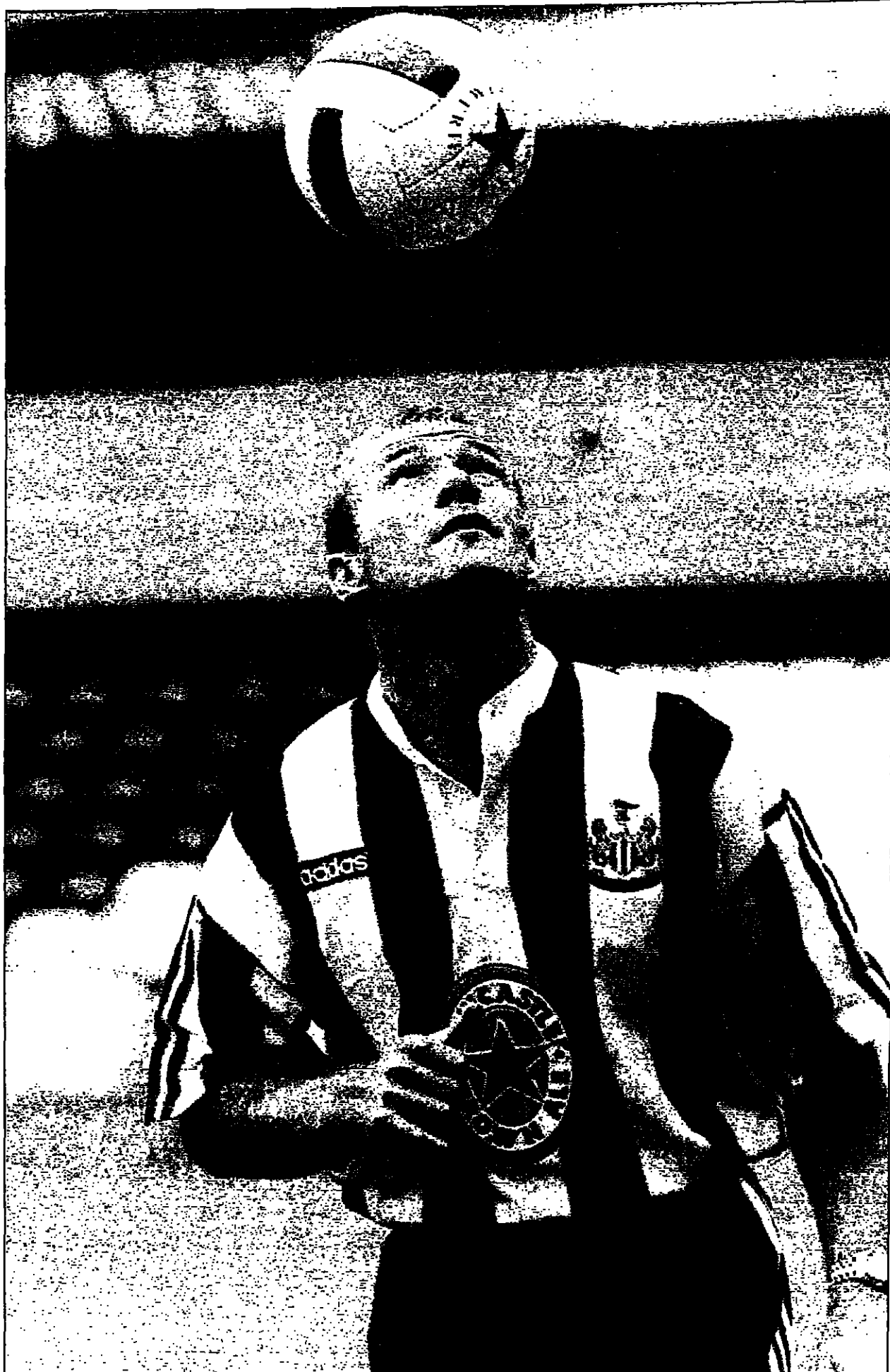
"I had a long meeting with him on Sunday [last week] and asked if I could see my options, see what I wanted to do. I met Alex Ferguson on Monday and was very impressed with him and then met with the boss on Tuesday and again I was very impressed and, as everyone knows, I always wanted to play for this club at some stage. I want to play for Newcastle with my best years in front of me, whereas if I'd gone somewhere else for four years, it would then be with my best years behind me."

Even Kenny Dalglish was unable to persuade Shearer to stay with Blackburn, although the Scot finally told him that, whoever he chose, "you can't lose."

With Shearer having scored 30 goals in each of the past three seasons and the only player to score 100 goals in the FA Cup, his integration into the Newcastle side has still to happen. There have been doubts about the ability of Shearer and Les Ferdinand to work together.

Last season, Keegan had advised Terry Venables, the England manager, to play Ferdinand and Shearer as a partnership and he has no doubts about their capacity to play together. "I think they will make a terrific strike-force," the Newcastle manager said. "I think they can take each other to the places they dream about going."

There is no doubt, however, who is going to be the senior



Shearer offers a taste of things to come, warming up at St James' Park yesterday. Photograph: Julian Herbert

partner. Despite his modesty Shearer likes his own way and has already taken over the No 9 shirt, with its special place in Geordie folklore. "I would play in any number shirt for Newcastle United, but the No 9 at Newcastle is something very special and I've always wanted to wear it," he said. "I mentioned it to the manager, he mentioned it to Les and Les has been very kind and given it to me."

And the crowd roared again. From the start, every reply, however anodyne, had been punctuated by cheers as his words were relayed to the crowds waiting outside, but he punctured one pervasive myth to virtual silence. It had been part of Newcastle history that they had failed to sign him because when he went there on trial they played him in goal. Not so.

"I came for a trial with a lot

of other lads and there was a shortage or something, so everyone had to take a turn in goal," he said. "I was no different from anyone else. I had my 20 minutes just like everyone else, but I said to someone that I'd played for goal in Newcastle when I was on trial and I've never heard the last of it." He will hope to soon have more memorable appearances for Newcastle for the fans to talk about.

Botham in line for Test return as coach

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

PETER LEVER, the bowling coach to the England cricket team, has resigned his post on the eve of the second Test against Pakistan at Headingley. Lever, 55, who was appointed last year by Raymond Illingworth, the chairman of selectors and former team manager, will stand down at the end of the season.

Lever, a former player and coach at Lancashire, where he was a team-mate of David Lloyd, the England coach, belongs to a generation that regards with suspicion some of the motivational "aids" Lloyd has employed in the England dressing-room this summer. Loud pop music accompanying video collections of players' "favourite things", and the national anthem, never played much of a part in his life at Old Trafford.

Lever at least lasted longer in his job than John Edrich, Illingworth's appointment as batting coach, who parted company with England at the

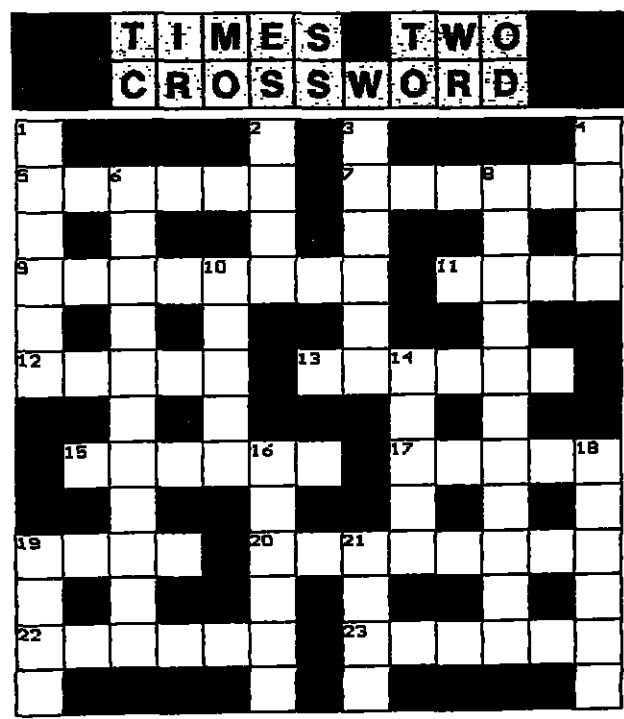
Lloyd in control 40
Imported problems 40

start of the season. Lloyd, who is six years younger than Lever, denied that there had been a clash of personalities.

"This winter the personnel will perhaps be suggested by me," Lloyd said, "and the role of specialist coaches may be slightly different."

The departure of Illingworth, and Lloyd's imminent promotion from temporary to permanent coach, make him the most accountable man in English cricket. Lloyd confirmed yesterday that he will take the England party to Zimbabwe and New Zealand this winter, and expects to sign a two-year contract before then.

Earlier this year, Lloyd sought to get Ian Botham involved in the England set-up, as a bowling coach. Illingworth put his foot down firmly and properly at the time, telling the new coach to make the dressing-room his own before bringing in others to do subsidiary jobs. Now that he has done so, Botham can expect an early summons. Another choice might be Bob Cottam, the director of cricket at Somerset.



No 854

- ACROSS**
- 1 Hypnotic state (6)
 - 7 Scheme; heraldic sign (6)
 - 9 Lion-heart king (7, 1)
 - 11 Skim: run before wind (4)
 - 12 "— with his own petar" (flamier) (5)
 - 13 Capital of Greece (6)
 - 15 Look (for) (6)
 - 17 Aug/Sept star sign (5)
 - 19 Cure (4)
 - 20 (Letter) dismissing lover (4, 1)
 - 22 Of flowers (6)
 - 23 Reddish-brown: a fabric; an apple (6)
- DOWN**
- 1 Formality: a carbohydrate (6)
 - 2 (Wind) change direction (5)
 - 3 In unsteerable boat (6)
 - 4 Study (univ. subject) (4)
 - 6 Chain of islands (11)
 - 8 Jarring (11)
 - 10 Place of sacrifice (5)
 - 14 Hang in the air (5)
 - 16 Warm embrace (6)
 - 18 Heavily embellished (6)
 - 19 (Axe) handle (4)
 - 21 Well-ventilated (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 853
ACROSS: 1 Deluded 5 Daub 9 Steer 10 Reconcile
11 Thick-skinned 12 Finite 13 Sloganeer 14 Inverted snob
19 Kneecap 20 Extra 21 Rasp 22 Delilah

DOWN: 1 Dose 2 Freshen 3 Caricaturist 4 Dures
6 Avian 7 Blend in 8 Achilles heel 12 Flicker
14 Glacial 15 Netted 17 Views 18 Sash

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 849
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ACROSS: 1 Harmless 7 Grieve 8 Errata 9 Summer
10 Future 11 Vest 13 Skate 15 Jolie 17 Buckle 18 Fiddle
19 Urbane 20 Reaper 21 Hardened

DOWN: 1 Bruise 2 Pelmet 3 Herrick 4 Marquee
5 Evaluate 6 Seavenger 11 Vardburgh 12 Space bar
13 Silence 14 Telford 15 Jackal 16 Teller

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England await the home countries' verdict on attempt at reconciliation

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE ball that is the rugby union five nations' championship is to be passed back to England after a six-hour meeting of the other four countries on Monday night. The door to reconciliation remains open, but only just, and much now depends upon the response.

The Rugby Football Union's (RFU) proposals for a resolution to the split between England and their home-union colleagues were considered by representatives from Scotland, Ireland, Wales and France at a Heathrow hotel but Tom Kiernan, chairman of the five nations' committee, vehemently denied radio reports that England had made significant concessions. "If that had been the case, do you think we would have been sitting round a table so long?" he said.

Nevertheless there have been hints that England have conceded the principle dear to the other three, that the joint property which is the five nations' championship should be sold jointly for broadcasting purposes. It was the RFU's decision to go it alone and strike a five-year

deal worth £87.5 million with BSkyB, the satellite television company part-owned by News International owners of The Times, that so offended Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

Whether the RFU will now try to renegotiate a contract they have hitherto declared to be legally binding remains to be decided but it was significant that Cliff Brittle, chairman of the union's executive committee, should have flown into Heathrow from his French holiday.

Brittle is now part of the RFU negotiating team, along with John Richardson, the president, Colin Herdridge, the treasurer, and John Jeavons-Fellows, England's representative on the International Rugby Football Board. Kiernan stressed that he did not form part of Monday's discussions but the other unions clearly perceive Brittle to be a more acceptable point of contact than those who have preceded him.

Kiernan, who was joined round the table by his Irish colleague, Syd Millar, Vernon Pugh and Ray Williams (Wales), Freddie McLeod and Alan Hosie (Scotland), and Bernard Lapasset and Marcel Martin (France), would go no

FIVE NATIONS



CHAMPIONSHIP

further than to say: "We had extensive discussions and will be replying to the RFU in the next 48 hours. I will not and cannot get involved in speculation."

McLeod, the Scottish RFU's president, added: "We remain neither confident nor pessimistic, and hope that another meeting of the unions and the RFU can take place within the next ten days." But all parties are agreed that there must be a resolution, within days rather than weeks and certainly before August is over.

This cannot be allowed to go on," Pugh, chairman of the Welsh RFU, said. "At this point, the five nations' next season has been written off, but there does remain the possibility of [England's] reinstatement. You could say

there is a chink of light through the door and we feel it is worthwhile trying to make that chink bigger."

At the same time, the other four unions have accepted the worst-case scenario and are planning their own home-and-away championship. But all sides agree that the loss of the five nations' would cause substantial damage to the financing and profile of the game in the northern hemisphere.

RFU representatives kept their counsel yesterday as they awaited the arrival of the conclusions of the other unions. Depending on their content they will be dealt with by the RFU negotiating team, by the union's officers or, in extremis, a further meeting of the executive committee.

All a spokesman would say was: "We sincerely hope that talks can be resumed as soon as possible." Faced with the complete restructuring of the coming season's representative programme, that wish was heartfelt.

At least one organisation has confidence in England's return to the fold: a firm of bookmakers has cut the odds on a successful defence of the championship in 1997 from 7-4 to 11-8.

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